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St George
and the
Dragon

By Bernat
Martorell

Price
£1

April 2026

Issue number 356

Three in One Magazine

Vicar

The Revd Susan Cooke

Work mobile 07510 227854

The Vicarage, School Lane

Shurdington, Cheltenham, GL51 4TF

Email: revsusancooke@gmail.com

Reader and Funeral Minister: Mr Robert Poole

Tel 01452 855660

Email: reader.rob.bswb@gmail.com

Assistant Curate The Reverend Daniel Newman

Email: rev.daniel.newman@gmail.com

Tel: 07928299244

THE GREENWAY LOCAL MINISTRY TEAM

Revd Susan Cooke Robert Poole Sue Padfield

Paul Stanfield Christine Jeffs Vaughan Kerry

Revd Daniel Newman

Benefice Administrator: Mrs Chris Langham

email: greenway.bswb.office@gmail.com

I am usually in the office between 10 and 12 noon on

Mondays, other times by arrangement.

Office phone 01242 861218.

Safeguarding Officer & Care Homes Liaison: Mrs Rachel
Cottell

Tel 01452 715034 email admin.bswb@googlemail.com

THREE IN ONE MAGAZINE

Editor John Cummins tel 07795849688

Business Manager Ian Davies tel (01242) 861293

email: iandavies@pobox.com

Greenway Benefice - Badgeworth, Shurdington and Witcombe with Bentham.

"Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation" Mark 16:15

2026 Benefice Worship Pattern

1st Sunday of the month

8am	St Paul's	BCP* Holy Communion
9:30	St Paul's	Worship
11am	Holy Trinity	Worship
11am	St Mary's	Worship

2nd Sunday of the month

8am	St Mary's	BCP* Holy Communion
9:30	St Paul's	Worship
11am	Holy Trinity	Holy Communion
11am	St Mary's	All-age Worship

3rd Sunday of the month

9:30	St Paul's	Holy Communion
11am	Holy Trinity	BCP* Morning Worship
11am	St Mary's	Holy Communion

****These are services using the Book of Common Prayer***

4th Sunday 10.30am Benefice Holy Communion

January, April, July, October at Holy Trinity Badgeworth

February, May, August, November at St Mary's Great Witcombe

March, June, September, December at St Paul's Shurdington

5th Sunday Benefice Service at 10am "Let's Worship"

usually in Shurdington Church of England Primary School

DON'T FORGET TO LOOK AT OUR NOTICEBOARDS AND ONLINE FOR SEASONAL SERVICES SUCH AS CHRISTMAS, EASTER, HARVEST ETC.

Find us on social media on Facebook:

@GreenwayChurches

SHURDINGTON CHURCH HALL

School Lane, Shurdington

Lettings for groups and private functions.

Rates £25 large room, £20 small room per session

Further details from the church administrator by
emailing greenway.bswb.office@gmail.com

WITCOMBE & BENTHAM VILLAGE HALL

Enquiries should be made to the Custodian

07518 137635

witcombevillagehall@gmail.com

www.witcombevillagehall.co.uk

BADGEWORTH VILLAGE HALL

Our lovely old school hall is an excellent venue for meetings, rehearsals, receptions and small parties, seating a maximum of 50 people.

Reception hall, main hall, fully fitted kitchen with crockery and cutlery for 50.

Car park oposite the hall for hall users.

Hire charge £25 per session
(8am-1pm, 1-6pm, 6-11pm).

For enquiries and bookings, please email
badgeworthvillagehall@gmail.com

or call 07895 764947.

Badgeworth Village Hall Management Committee

SHURDINGTON COMMUNITY CENTRE

The Community Centre consists of two spacious halls, a room which links both, and a grassed open space.

Events may be booked by following the 'Bookings' link on our website : shurdingtoncomcentre.net

Email: bookings@shurdingtoncomcentre.net

Tel: 07483 303190

CONTENTS

APRIL

	page		page
Pastoral Letter	2	Witcombe & Bentham	
Listening team	5	Organisations	13
Welcome Table	6	Books and Banter	15
John Frederick Christie	7	The Messenger	16
Summer Fete	9	Gardening Society	23
Useful Phone Numbers	11	Mothers' Union	24
Shurdington Organisations	12	Coffee Morning	25
Badgeworth Organisations	13	Coffee and chat	26



Contributors please note: material for the
May 2026 issue to
John Cummins at editor3in1@gmail.com
by Wednesday 15th April 2026



Pastoral Letter

Susan writes



April
2026

My Dear Friends,

By the time you read this it will almost be Easter! Such a joyful time of year, when spring flowers are everywhere, we get to eat chocolate eggs and maybe enjoy an Easter Egg hunt! As a Christian, I celebrate this season when the impossible becomes reality, when despair is overturned by joy, and when the power of God bursts through every barrier. We remember that although Jesus died, he rose again. The empty tomb is not just a chapter in history; it is cause for every believer to live boldly, and to carry the light of Christ into the world. Even if you're not Christian, or not a churchgoer, Easter still signals spring, new life, and maybe even sunnier days!

I have been on secondment since the middle of January as the Interim Assistant Archdeacon for the Diocese of Gloucester and I've seen some of the tougher challenges of life and ministry from a different perspective. I have become the person I used to call for advice! Likewise, Reverend Dan has taken on more responsibility and has experienced what it's like to be the vicar. We have both been on a steep learning curve this Lent.

Some of you may have faced moments when the road ahead seemed uncertain or when the weight of life felt overwhelming; we all struggle from time to time. It is part of being human. But Easter proclaims a truth that changes everything; the same power that raised Jesus from the dead is alive and at work in us today.

The resurrection is more than a promise — it is a gift that encourages us to step out of fear and into faith, to replace doubt with courage, and to live with a joy that cannot be shaken.

In our churches we talk about everyday faith. About how we are Christian when we're not in the church. We are challenged to be

the hands and feet of Jesus in our homes, workplaces, and communities. To shine hope into the darkest places.

And if you're not Christian, we hope that you will feel that encouragement to live with joy and courage and maybe to be curious about what Christianity is about.

Whatever has tested you recently, I pray that you will find the strength to press on. I pray that your family and friends will support you. And I offer you our churches as places of prayer and support as well.

So, dear friends, I invite you to live with purpose. To love without limits. To serve with joy. Whether you do this as a Christian or not, you make a difference in this world. The same Spirit that rolled away the stone is with you now, empowering you to live a life that reflects the victory of Easter every single day.

**With every blessing for a courageous and hope-filled Easter,
Susan**



Witcombe Social Fundraisers February 2026

The "Big Breakfast" held in Witcombe & Bentham Village Hall on Saturday 7th February had a very good atmosphere and was greatly enjoyed by all who came.

On offer was a feast of egg, bacon, beans, tomato, sausage, orange juice, tea, coffee, toast jam / marmalade all for the very reasonable cost of £6 - what more could you ask ?!!

Around some 70 people came along, fewer than on the last occasion - perhaps due to the miserable weather on the day - but with new and old faces.

A lovely event, with £366 raised for church and community. Our thanks to all those individuals and firms that donated to ensuring the success of the occasion.

Geoff Pilgrim-Morris

Benefice Diary

April

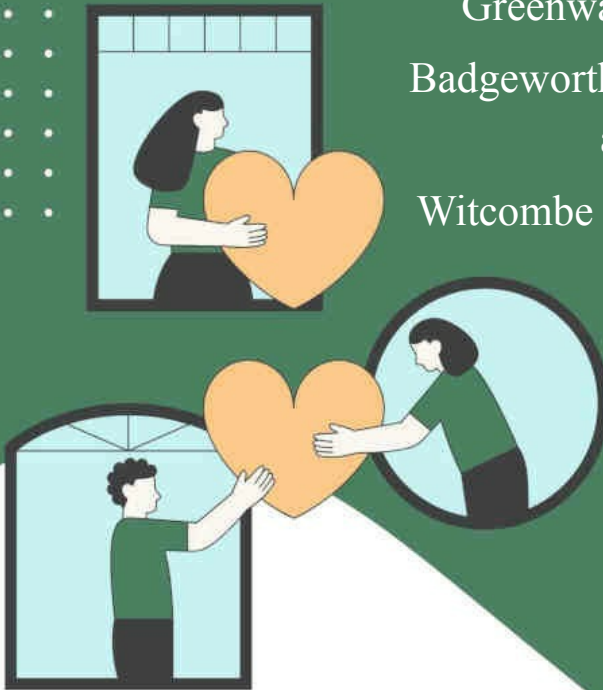
Thursday	2	Anna Chaplaincy Coffee	6
Saturday	4	Coffee and Chat	27
Monday	13	Open Monday	14
Tuesday	14	MU Easter Celebration	24
Thursday	16	Gardening Society	23
Wednesday	22	Julian Meeting	11
Saturday	25	Coffee Morning	25
Monday	27	Open Monday	13

May

Saturday	2	Coffee and Chat	27
Tuesday	5	Seniors Coach trip	28
Thursday	7	Anna Chaplaincy Coffee	6
Friday	8	Books and Banter	15
Monday	11	Open Monday	14
Tuesday	12	MU Floral Art	24
Thursday	21	Gardening Society	23
Saturday	23	Coffee Morning	25
Monday	25	Open Monday	13
Wednesday	27	Julian Meeting	11
Saturday	30	Summer fete	9

Every Monday (except Bank Holidays) Greenway Gifts
Every Thursday in term-time Community Choir

Greenway Benefice
Badgeworth, Shurdington
and
Witcombe with Bentham



LISTENING TEAM

**Do you need someone to talk to?
Someone to pray with or for you?**

We have a small, dedicated team of people ready to listen, and if you would like, we can pray with you or for you.

Our support is for anyone, if you go to church regularly, occasionally, used to or have never been. We are here to help. Please contact our Churchwardens to arrange a visit.

Holy Trinity, Badgeworth - Paul Stanfield 01242 512926

St Mary's, Witcombe - Sue Padfield 01452 862509

St Paul's, Shurdington - Rev'd Susan Cooke



The Welcome Table

for older people

Do you enjoy going out for a coffee but would like to have the opportunity to talk with others while you are out and about?

Members of the Cheltenham and Bishop's Cleeve Chaplaincy (CaBiC) team are great at engaging with residents in care homes but we are very aware that there are many older people, living independently, who would like to meet others for a cup of coffee and a casual catch up.

We would like to spread our wings and meet you!

From February, we are starting a new project, **The Welcome Table**, to be held in different coffee shops across Cheltenham.

To start with, come and catch up with Rachel on the:

**1st Thursday in the month 10.30am-12noon at the Fio
Lounge at the top of the Bath Road**

(starting on Thurs 5th Feb)

We will have a table reserved for us and a couple of our Anna Chaplaincy volunteers will be there, already chatting! All you need to do is order and pay for a coffee (and cake!) and join us at the table. It will be very casual and very friendly!

Other venues and days in the week are in the pipeline?

Why not suggest a coffee shop to us!

info@cabic.co.uk

John Frederick Christie: Shurdington's High Church Pioneer

Many of the names on our parish board are quiet, local figures, but one stands out for his remarkable story: John Frederick Christie, vicar here in the mid-19th century. His life connects our small village to one of the most significant religious movements of the time, the Oxford Movement.

Early Life and Education

Christie was born in Cheltenham on 14 October 1815, the son of Thomas Christie, a doctor who served in Ceylon (now Sri Lanka). His family was educated, professional, and globally connected. At seventeen, Christie matriculated at Oriel College, Oxford, and just a year later became a Fellow. Oriel was the intellectual heart of the Church in the early 19th century, home to figures like John Henry Newman and John Keble, and at the centre of the Oxford Movement, which sought to revive traditional “High Church” practices in Anglican worship. Christie was not just educated; he was in the thick of the theological debates shaping England.

Ministry in Shurdington

By the 1840s, Christie was serving as vicar of Badgeworth and Shurdington. Here, he faced a memorable local challenge: in 1845, he attempted to preach wearing a surplice, a vestment associated with High Church worship. Some parishioners objected strongly, and Christie had to revert to the older black preaching gown.

This small incident captures something larger: Christie was a reform-minded priest, influenced by the Oxford Movement, introducing new practices that were often controversial in small villages. It is likely that this dispute contributed to his eventual departure from Shurdington.

Later Life

Christie married in 1847 on the Isle of Wight and later remarried in Scotland, raising a family. He lived comfortably in Berkshire and Cheltenham, described as a “fundholder” with servants, and

passed away on 5 October 1876 in Wandsworth, London.

A Lasting Legacy

Through him, our village has a direct connection to national religious history and the intellectual elite of Oxford.

Christie's story reminds us that even small communities can be touched by the sweep of history.

Did You Know?

- In 1845, Christie tried to preach wearing a surplice, but parishioners objected. He had to switch back to a plain black preaching gown.
- This small wardrobe choice sparked a real local dispute, showing just how strongly people felt about church practices.
- Christie was part of the Oxford Movement, which aimed to revive older, more ceremonial worship styles in Anglican churches, something unusual in a village like Shurdington at the time.

THE RUBRIC.—It is stated that the Rev. J. F. Christie, Rector of Badgeworth and Shurdington, has, in compliance with the remonstrance of his parishioners, consented to resume the use of the gown in preaching, and to give up certain innovations which have been objected to.

Cheltenham Journal and Gloucestershire Fashionable Weekly Gazette - Monday 31 March 1845

A vibrant, colorful illustration for a 'Summer Fete'. At the top, a large, smiling sun is surrounded by colorful triangular bunting. A banner across the top reads 'SUMMER FETE'. Below the banner, a large, smiling sun is the central focus. To the left, a cloud contains musical notes and a smiling face. To the right, another cloud contains musical notes. In the center, a tall, striped pole is decorated with a floral arrangement at the top, and colorful ribbons hang from it. Children are dancing around the pole. To the left, two women in traditional Indian attire are dancing. In the foreground, there is a large teapot, a cup of tea, and a cupcake. To the right, a red fire truck is parked, and a sign says 'START'. In the background, there is a stall with a green and white striped awning and a person behind the counter. The scene is set in a grassy field with hills in the distance.

SUMMER FETE

**BBQ & ICE CREAM
DANCING
COMMUNITY CHOIR
FACE PAINTING
UKULELE MUSIC**

**DOG SHOW
TEA AND CAKE
CRAFT STALLS
CHILDREN'S
RACES
MAYPOLE
DANCING**

**SATURDAY 30TH MAY, 12- 3PM
SHURDINGTON VILLAGE
THE GREEN AND COMMUNITY
HALLS**

Greenway Benefice Churches

How to find us:

Holy Trinity Badgeworth
Church Lane
Badgeworth
Gloucester
GL51 4UL

(Registered Charity number 1209315)

St Paul's Shurdington
School Lane
Shurdington
Cheltenham
GL51 4TF

St Mary* the Virgin Witcombe with Bentham
Great Witcombe
Gloucester
*GL3 4TS**

**turnings off Ermin Way or Birdlip Hill*

You can also see more information on A Church Near You.

Simply type "A Church Near You Badgeworth" or "A Church Near You Shurdington" or "A Church Near You Witcombe" into your search engine.



Useful Phone Numbers:



Furniture Recycling Warehouse	01452 331333
Removal of Bulky Waste	01684 295010
Glos Highways	0800 0 514 514
Faulty Streetlights	0800 0 514 514
Police (non-emergency)	101
101 is 15p, the local call number is	01452 726920
Fire/Police/Ambulance	999
(emergency only)	
NHS 'Out of Hours'	08454 220220
NHS Help line	111
Adult social services and	
District nurses	01452 328224
Samaritans	116123
Citizens Advice	01452 527202
Children's social services	01452 328213
CARE direct	0800 444000
Electricity Power Loss	0800 328 1111
Water Services &	0800 783 4444
Emergencies	
Gas Emergency	0800 111 999
Emmaus*	01452 413095

*at Chequers Road, Gloucester:

Collections and Sale of furniture, electrical goods etc.

**at Chequers Road, Gloucester:*

Collections and Sale of furniture, electrical goods etc.

Julian Meeting

Meeting in silence with God

Please do join us for 30 minutes of silent prayer followed
by a cup of tea together.

Time: 2:30pm Wednesday April 22nd

Place: 52 Lambert Avenue, Shurdington. GL51 4ST

Ian & Wendy Davies (01242 861293)



Shurdington church and village organisations

Churchwarden	Mr Andrew Spence	(01242) 862101
PCC Secretary	Mrs Lisa Pearson	(01242) 862538
PCC Treasurer	Mrs Christine Langham	(01242) 861218
Gift Aid Officer		
Sacristan	Mr Andrew Spence	(01242) 862101
Church Flowers	Mrs Helen King	(01242) 862505
Electoral Roll Officer	Mrs Lisa Pearson	(01242) 862538
Mothers' Union	Mrs Janet Holmes	(01242) 862989
Church Hall Lettings		
Verger		
Parish Council Clerk	John Kay	07841204404
Shurdington Pre School	Kelly Clifford	07867813627
Gardening Society	Mr. G. Woodruffe	07792269353
Scout Group	Mrs Louise Slee	
	15thcheltenhamscoutgroup@gmail.com	
Shurdington Sports Club	Mr J Barnfield	(01242) 862826
Friendship Club	Mrs Maureen West	(01242) 863991
Children's Society	Mrs Helen King	(01242) 862505

In time of illness if you would like a visit and / or to be remembered in prayer please contact Sue Padfield (01452) 862509.

Three in One Magazine

Editor John Cummins

07795849688

e-mail address: editor3in1@gmail.com

Business Manager Ian Davies tel (01242) 861293

email: ilandavies@pobox.com



Witcombe & Bentham church and village organisations

Churchwardens	Mrs Sue Padfield	(01452) 862509
	Mrs Lynne Cooper	07582036001
PCC Secretary	Mrs Sue Padfield	(01452) 862509
PCC Treasurer/Gift Aid Officer	Mr Jon Frewin	07808912217
Verger	Mrs Jane Bell	(01452) 862558
Captain of Bells		Vacancy
Electoral Roll Officer	Mrs Lynne Cooper	07582036001
Magazine Coordinator	Mrs Sue Padfield	(01452) 862509
Village Hall Enquiries Custodian		07518137635
Witcombe Social Fundraisers	Mrs Christine Dyer	(01452) 862399
Witcombe Under 5s	Kyla Hill	thevictoria@btinternet.com



Badgeworth church and Village organisations

Churchwardens	Mr Roger Brown	(01242) 239179
	Mr Paul Stanfield	(01242) 463626
PCC Secretary	Mrs Antoinette Wilson	(01452) 856907
PCC Treasurer		
Gift Aid Officer	Mr Roger Brown	(01242) 239179
Sacristan	Mrs Sue Avery	(01242) 520388
Verger	Mrs Rachel Cottell	(01452) 715034
Captain of Bells	Mr David Turner	(01452) 712302
Electoral Roll Officer	Mr Roger Brown	(01242) 239179
Parish Council Clerk	Mrs H.L. Jones	07840073143
Village Hall	Mrs Rachel Cottell	(01452) 715034
Friends of Church	Mrs Beverly Pickering	(01452) 712907
Church Flowers	Mrs Diana Brown	(01242) 239179

Open Mondays at Shurdington Community Centre

Century Hall from 11am – 4pm
Second and last Monday of the month.

Refreshments

No charge and all are welcome.

Newspapers, jigsaws, table tennis, charge your phone or just have a chat.

Between 2pm and 4pm, there will be a family film showing on our cinema system.

Play facilities for children and on the last Monday of the month, an **NHS run Baby Hub**.

All welcome



Supported by: **Shurdington Parish Council, Tewkesbury
Warm Spaces**

**Community Fund, Gloucester Thriving Communities,
National Grid Community Matters
Gloucestershire Community Foundation**



BOOKS & BANTER

Shurdington book club

Where: in Beauty and the Teacup

When: 6pm

Next Meeting 8th May

2026 – 2nd Fridays of the month

NO MEETING IN APRIL

12th June 10th July

NO MEETING IN AUGUST

11th September 9th October

13th November 11th December

New members are always welcome.

If you'd like to join, please email

revsusancooke@gmail.com

or ask Wendy Lovett in Beauty and the Teacup

or just come along!

All welcome! *Susan & Wendy.*

‘Christ’ to appear in Cirencester on Easter Sunday

An interactive public artwork, created by a priest and iconographer will be revealed in Cirencester on Easter Sunday. The Revd Catherine Lomas is a full-time theological artist and iconographer working across the country, as well as Associate Priest at the Benefice of Cirencester with Watermoor.

‘Appearance’ is a temporary sculpture installation that will stand in the town’s market square from 9.30am to 3pm on Easter Sunday (5 April 2026), before being moved into church for a 4pm service. It consists of large upright letter-forms spelling the name of Christ, designed so that people can walk among them.

Visitors will be invited to write prayers, hopes and fears directly onto the white-painted surfaces throughout the day.

“The sculpture grew from my training in calligraphy,” Catherine said. “I went to a workshop where we were taught to write in Saxon runes, an ancient form of lettering. As soon as I learned the letter forms, I saw them as standing stones.

“They’re upright and vertical, not rounded like the letters we’re used to, and they immediately reminded me of stone circles – places of spiritual encounter, connection, and gathering for a worshipping community.

“At the same time, I had the idea of representing the name of Christ through these standing-stone forms. I was inspired by Acts 17, where Paul says that Christ is the one in whom we live and move and have our being. It made me think that if the letters of Christ were placed around a space, people could physically move in and out of them, almost inhabiting that idea of being within Christ.”

As part of her Masters in Fine Art at Oxford Brookes University, Catherine was required to create work that would capture the imagination of a wider audience. “I thought, why not take these sculptures quite literally into the marketplace?” she said.

A diocesan mission grant made the project possible, covering the cost of materials and transport; each of the six letters stands more than five feet tall and weighs over 50 kilos, with concrete bases added for stability.

“My hope is that other communities might want to display it in their own church context,” Catherine said. “A large church could display the entire piece, but for smaller churches within a benefice, they could perhaps have one letter in each church to create a trail.”

Any community that would like to have the Christ runes appear in their locality can get in touch with Catherine at revdcatherine@encircled.uk.

View Catherine’s work online at catherinemaryicons.uk.

Read the full article at <https://gloucester.anglican.org/2026/christ-to-appear-in-cirencester-on-easter-sunday/>

Welcome café recipe book at St Peter’s

St Peter’s Willersey with Saintbury parish has produced a Welcome Café Recipe Book, developed out of the weekly Welcome Café held in St Peter’s Church.

The café, created and led by Sally Maclean with support from her husband Malcolm, runs every Thursday from 2pm to 4.30pm in St Peter’s Church. It’s staffed by volunteers and serves tea and coffee, homemade cakes, biscuits and savouries. Refreshments are offered without charge, with donations invited in support of the church.

In October, Sally proposed producing a recipe book featuring cakes and dishes served at the café.

“As an evangelist at heart, I’m always on the lookout for opportunities to share the good news of the gospel. So, when a

friend at church suggested a cookbook, I saw the perfect chance to bring together my love of sharing faith with the good food of the Welcome Café,” Sally said. “Visitors to the Welcome Café were always asking for our recipes, so producing a cookbook was a wonderful way to gather them all together, and to raise funds for our church at the same time.”

The recipe book has had input from others who attend the café, as well as support from diocesan Stewardship and Giving Advisor Lisa-Jayne Lewis who volunteered some time to the project. The cover of the Welcome Café Recipe Book was designed by a young student who volunteers at the café.

If you are interested in buying a copy of the recipe book, or would like to find out more information, Sally Maclean can be contacted at e.samaclean@gmail.com.

Events and training

More details for all these events at gloucester.anglican.org/events

Bach’s St John Passion on Good Friday, Gloucester Cathedral, GL1 2LX, 3 April, 7pm Gloucester Cathedral hosts the Cathedral Choir with period-instrument ensemble La Serenissima, performing Bach’s *St John Passion* – a powerful retelling of Jesus’ final hours.

<https://gloucestercathedral.org.uk/whats-on/bach-s-st-john-passion-on-good-friday-26>

Longhope Brook duck race, The Latchen Rooms, Longhope, GL17 0QA, 11 April, 10am to 12pm A family friendly event with coffee, cake, bacon rolls, plenty of chatter, and ducks racing for cash prizes.

<https://gloucestershireevents.co.uk/event/longhope-brook-duck-race/>

Easter at Gloucester Cathedral, Gloucester Cathedral, GL1 2LX, now to 12 April

A programme of services and events celebrating this season of hope and new life, including a Palm Sunday Eucharist, a Holy

Week series of evening lectures, and a Secret Easter Garden Trail. <https://gloucester.anglican.org/event/step-into-the-season-of-hope-and-new-life-this-easter-at-gloucester-cathedral/>

Wild Worship at Tewkesbury Abbey, Church Street, Tewkesbury GL20 5RZ, 3 May, 3pm to 4pm An informal, family-friendly outdoor service giving thanks for the beauty of creation. All ages are welcome. <https://www.tewkesburyabbey.org.uk/eco-church/>



Hall availability

Are you looking for a lovely village hall for your meeting or activity session?

From Easter, we have availability at **Badgeworth Village Hall** for Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings, 8am -1pm, for the bargain hire charge of £25. We also have current availability for Wednesday and Thursday afternoons each week (1-6pm), again at £25 per session.

The hire charge includes use of the car park, all kitchen facilities, heat and light.

If you are interested, please email badgeworthvillagehall@gmail.com to make a booking or to arrange to see the hall.

<https://www.badgeworthvillagehall.org.uk/>

Telephone 07518137635

BEING ECO CHURCH

Celebrate new life this Easter and have a go at growing some of your own food!

Growing food, even in the relatively clement British climate, can open our eyes to the challenges of farmers around the world whose livelihoods (and our food) depend on successful care of their plants. We are reminded of God's sovereignty and humbled by the recognition that we really are not in charge of the weather!

'The earth is the Lord's and everything in it' (Psalm 24v1) reminds us that we are only here as tenants in God's world for a short time. In honour of God and to fulfil our calling as good stewards we can protect and redeem the earth or use up its resources for our own ends.

Growing our own food may seem like too simple a step, but it is one which contributes to the sustainability of global food production. By growing locally we reduce food miles, we can choose to grow organically (encouraging beneficial predators rather than spraying pests) and we improve the quality of the soil through homemade compost.

We learn patience as we discover the very real truth written about in Ecclesiastes 3 that 'For everything there is a season.... a time to plant and a time to harvest'. In the process of planting, tending, harvesting we must also wait for God to 'make things grow'. Our reward is not just the end-product of food, but also a refreshed spirit as we spend time outdoors enjoying nature, committing our endeavours to God's oversight.

So how can we make a start?

In the UK, we have a relatively short growing season for our fruit and vegetable crops. For the best results, find an open, sunny site for plants to capture the sun's energy and convert it into delicious produce. (Salad leaves and lettuce are an exception which don't like full sun).

Shelter from strong winds is also helpful, whether that protection is from a hedge, a building or windbreak fencing. As well as warmth and light, crops need plenty of water. Do you have a water source

you can use nearby? (People lose interest in carrying heavy watering cans a long way!) Even better if you can use water butts, washing up water or a stream rather than tap water.

If you have little space, why not grow fruit and vegetables vertically? A wall, trellis or arches might work. A sunny west or south-west location is best, to prevent plants in smaller pots being scorched in the mid-day sun.

Start with something simple - just a few crops on a small scale. Growing vegetables is fun, but they need regular attention; weeding, feeding, watering and harvest so it becomes quite time consuming. How about getting together with friends for a regular session which combines 'tasks' with coffee & cake?

Easy crops to start with include runner or French beans, potatoes, onions, kale and courgettes. If you're using a plot of ground and not just containers, try to set aside room for three crops that you can rotate in future years to keep your soil and plants healthy.

Most fruit comes from permanent planting - whether apple or pear trees (top fruit) or a row of raspberry canes (soft fruit). This will take a bit more planning to choose a site which is available long term and to select varieties which suit the conditions of your plot.

If you haven't got a garden, you can still grow some crops indoors – salad leaves, herbs, small tomatoes, baby beetroot, pea shoots will all do well in pots on a sunny windowsill.

Need more information? Here are some useful links:

<https://www.rhs.org.uk/garden-design/design-with-plants/planting-design-for-small-spaces>

<https://www.growveg.co.uk/guides/ideas-for-small-gardens-growing-vegetables-vertically/>

<https://www.kew.org/read-and-watch/windowsill-veg-herbs>

For more eco-tips, sign up to A Rocha UK's Wild Christian email: arochoa.org.uk/wild-christian

St Paul's, Shurdington

Churchyard

In order to protect this important and beautiful churchyard we politely request that everyone adhere to the following principles.

- All waste should be disposed of in the bins provided.
- Kerb stones, fencing, stone chippings and statues are not permitted.
- Artificial flowers are not permitted.
- Flowers may only be placed in a non-glass removable container that has been sunk into the ground.
- Trees, shrubs, or bushes are not permitted to be planted in any grave.
- The Parish priest, Churchwardens or whoever is authorised by the PCC to look after the churchyard is permitted to remove unsightly flowers and any items not permitted.

Please be aware that we will have to remove items that are not permitted under these regulations.

If you have any of these items in the churchyard please could you collect when you are able.

We will be clearing any remaining items on 25/07/2026.

They will be stored for collection until 09/01/2027

Thank you

Churchwardens & P.C.C.



A full copy of churchyard regulations can be obtained by application to the Churchwardens or the Benefice office.

They are also available on the Diocese of Gloucester website or by following the QR code.



SHURDINGTON & BADGEWORTH GARDENING SOCIETY



Our meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month (unless it is a show month), at 7.30 in the Millennium Hall.

16th April our meeting is a talk by Philip Aubury on propagation, new plants from seeds, cuttings and division with a practical demonstration.

Our May meeting is on 21st with a talk on classic, rare and unusual bulbs by Gill Hazel.

Look forward to seeing you at one of these meetings.

Stay safe keep gardening Janette Willis (Secretary)

Sixty Years ago

The historic day arrived on Monday 15th April. Bulldozers moved in and the central meeting hall of the old Social Centre came tumbling down. It must have been a sad sight for some villagers as the hall was used for many years as a dining room cum kitchen for the primary school in School Lane. Built originally for the land army girls as a hostel, and described in the survey of 1959 as an Agricultural Workers Hostel, it was also used to house some prisoners of war.

Taken over many years ago, in 1964, as a village hall, successive committees have worked very hard to slowly but surely sink the old into the ground and build the new in its place.

Only one stage of building is left, and this is the toilet, kitchen, entrance block. A few more months of fundraising should see it completed. From The Scout group magazine 'Groundsheet' by Paul

Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

What a splendid afternoon we had! Ken Brightwell the Cheltenham Town Cryer (who is also a member of St Paul's congregation and very supportive of our Mothers' Union) stepped into the breach as our arranged afternoon had to be cancelled at very short notice. As you will see in the photographs below he arrived in his colourful costume down to his black Clarks shoes with shiny gold buckles! Thank you Ken for a very entertaining afternoon.

Next meeting - 14th April - Celebration of Easter
12th May - Floral Art with Helen





**4th SATURDAY
COFFEE
MORNINGS**
SHURDINGTON CHURCH HALL
10am to Noon

25th APRIL

23rd MAY, 27th JUNE, 25th JULY

22nd AUGUST, 26th SEPTEMBER

24th OCTOBER, 21st NOVEMBER

**RAFFLE, BOOKS, PLANTS,
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**IN AID OF THE REFURBISHMENT OF THE
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Sat 4th April

Sat 2nd May

Sat 6th June

**10am-12noon
Badgeworth Village Hall**

Coffee and home-made cakes, good company,
a raffle & the morning papers.

Please bring items for the
Foodbank box.

**A community event
organized by
Holy Trinity Church
and sponsored by
Badgeworth Village Hall**



Badgeworth, Holy Trinity Church

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♥ Food Bank

If you need some help with groceries, please come along to our non-referral food bank, every Monday, **except Bank Holidays**, between 9am and 10am, at St Paul's Church Hall. This is for Shurdington, Witcombe, Bentham and Badgeworth, and those associated with Shurdington School and Shurdington Preschool.



Cake and Chat

Every 3rd Monday of the month we have cake and chat. Free & all welcome!

If you would like to support the Food Bank, you can offer long dated items by leaving them in our churches, dropping in on a Monday morning, or you can donate directly to Shurdington Parochial Church Council using the QR code below. Please use the references GIFTS. Thank you!





Shurdington Parish Council is arranging a coach trip to Weston Super- Mare from Shurdington Tuesday 5 May 2026

Free to senior residents of Shurdington

Meet at Community Centre leave at 9 AM

Signup sheet to show interest will be displayed in the village shop and must be completed to attend

The coach will leave Weston at 4pm to return to Shurdington

Further details on the signup sheet

Come along it will be a lovely day out

Woggle

My desktop publishing software does not even recognise the word and marks as a spelling mistake. You will not find it in many of the renowned dictionaries.

In the early days of Scouting in Great Britain the Scout scarf or neckerchief used to be tied with a loose knot at the neck and naturally became very creased.

However, it was known the Americans were experimenting by using a ring made of bone, rope or wood to keep their scarves together.

Bill Shankley, aged 18 and one of the permanent campsite employees at Gilwell Park in Essex, had the job of running the workshop and coming up with ideas for camping equipment. He found out about the American rings and decided to go one better.

After various attempts with different materials he finally made a Turks Head knot out of thin sewing machine leather belting. He submitted this to the Camp The American rings were called "Boon Doggles" probably a skit on Dog Bones as some were made of bone.

To rhyme with Boon Doggle, Shanklin called his creation a 'woggle' An article in The Scout magazine of 9" June 1923 highlighted the popularity of these "woggles" worn by the 1st Gilwell Group.

Woggles come in many shapes and sizes nowadays.

The original design of the leather Gilwell Woggle and the wearing of it became restricted to Leaders who had completed their Leader training and gained their Wood Badge.

Wood Badge holders are eligible for membership of the 1st Gilwell Scout group

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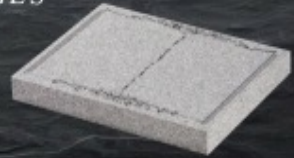
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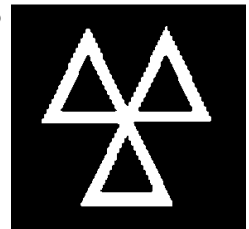
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