

News and views from the Parishes of Badgeworth,
Burdington and Diteombe with
Bertham

Three in One



Ascension of
Jesus

[El Greco](#)

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Three in One Magazine

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THREE IN ONE MAGAZINE

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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 opposite 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

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Contributors please note: material for the
June 2026 issue to
John Cummins at editor3in1@gmail.com
by Wednesday 20th May 2026



Pastoral Letter

Rebecca
writes



May
2026

Dear All,

May I begin by wishing everyone a blessed Eastertide. For us in the Church of England, the season of Easter takes us right into May, culminating in our Pentecost services on May 24th. May you journey well as we continue to celebrate the promises of God's love, forgiveness and Eternal Life revealed in the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, God's Son.

It is wonderful to have returned to you just before Easter with a licence to lead worship....I am now a "P.T.O.", as retired clergy with licences giving us Permission to Officiate are called. When clergy reach the age of 70, we are expected to retire and take a break of at least 6 months in order to rest before we may apply for a P.T O. licence. My return to Greenway Benefice has felt like a real homecoming, and I am very grateful to Rev'd. Susan and her wonderful team as they continue to support my ministering here.

My time away from the Benefice gave me a chance to reflect on the Hebrew word *Shabbath* meaning "rest from labour" or "peace", a word that we translate as "Sabbath." Times of rest are so important in all our lives. In the Christian tradition, Sundays have been a time when we are encouraged to rest from daily routines. The Book of Genesis reminds us that

even God rested on the seventh day, having created all that is. Being made in God's image, it is right that we too have times of rest. However this is increasingly a challenge, living as we do in times when we can all be so busy, and with most shops and supermarkets remaining open all week .

Rest allows our body, mind and soul to recover from the strains and stresses of daily life. However, initially I found the first few weeks of my required 6 months absence from the Benefice quite stressful and disorientating. Then, a few weeks in, I discovered a free, online abstract-art course, and signed up for it. I entered a world of freedom and paint unlike anything I had experienced before, and after 18 weeks I even managed to create a semi-abstract picture of my favourite headland in Cornwall, painted from life, that I like enough to have hung it on a wall at home.

Looking at it now, I find myself wondering "Where did that come from?!" But in my heart of hearts I know the answer. Created as we are in God's image, we carry within us God's hallmark of creativity, whether that be with paint, knitting, music, maths, engineering or relationship-building...there are probably as many ways of being creative as there are people on the planet. Even on the secular art course that I joined, the tutor would often say "There is creative energy flowing throughout the Universe...it is just a question of tuning in and allowing it to connect"! That sounds very like God to me.

So, I hope you will join me in thanking God for the gift of creativity in all our lives; the creativity of others that can bring us joy through what they produce , and our own

creativity that mirrors that of the God who made us. And if you happen to be one of those people who claims to be not at all creative...look again. You are probably already being creative in ways that you have not yet realised!

Blessings, Revd. Rebecca



Cataclew from Harlyn Bay. "After the Storm".

December 2025.

Benefice Diary

May

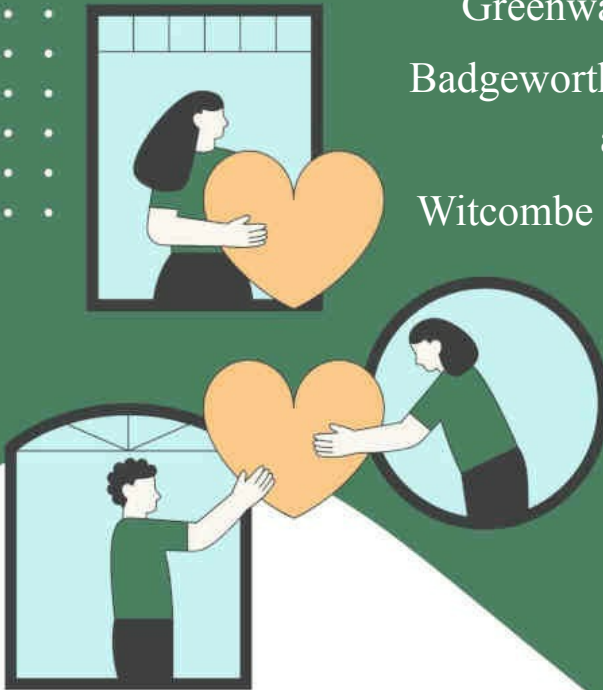
Saturday	2	Coffee and Chat	26
		Concert at Holy Trinity	22
Tuesday	5	Seniors Coach trip	28
Thursday	7	Anna Chaplaincy Coffee	7
Friday	8	Books and Banter	16
Monday	11	Open Monday	15
Tuesday	12	MU Floral Art	
Thursday	21	Gardening Society	24
Saturday	23	Coffee Morning	25
Monday	25	Open Monday	15
Wednesday	27	Julian Meeting	12
Saturday	30	Summer fete	10

June

Thursday	4	Anna Chaplaincy Coffee	7
Saturday	6	Coffee and Chat	26
Monday	8	Open Monday	15
Friday	12	Books and Banter	16
Saturday	13	Wheels-on-the-Green	21
Saturday	20	Gardening Society Show	24
Mopnday	29	Open Monday	15
Saturday	27	Coffee Morning	25

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 Fiore Lounge at the top of the Bath Road

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

SAVE the DATE!



WITCOMBE w BENTHAM COMMUNITY EVENT DATES

Saturday 13 June Wheels-on-the-Green +Teas

Sunday 12 July Family Fun-Day at the Cricket Club
(reserve date 19th)

Saturday 5 September (tbc) Picnic-in-the-Park

Friday 16 October The Quiz

Saturday 21 November Bingo and Fish'nChips

More details to follow

St Mary's Church 100 Club

The club was set up to raise money for the Church, the incentive being four prize draws plus a Christmas draw annually.

Each draw comprises three winning share numbers with a first prize of £100 and two runners up of £25. The Christmas draw has an additional £100 prize. That's 13 winners in a year!

This year's draws will take place at community events in June, September, December and March '26.

You are now invited to renew your shares, or to join, for the current year beginning 1st April, 2026.

Existing share holders wishing to renew their shares for another year (£12 per share) need only to pay by BACS* or by cheque* or cash sent to Sue Padfield (Churchwarden) Woodview Cottage, Birdlip Hill, Witcombe, GL34SN.

For new applicants, forms are available from Sue Padfield (01452862509 suepadfield@btinternet.com) or in church. The purchase price is £12 per share; multiple share purchases are possible.

*Cheques should be made payable to St Mary's Church 100 Club. Payments by BACS to *St Mary's Church 100 Club* 40-22-09 a/c 72514125 ref100 Club.

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 group of children are dancing around a maypole decorated with a floral wreath and colorful ribbons. To the right, a red fire truck is parked, and a sign on the ground says "START". In the foreground, a large blue teapot and a cup of tea are shown, with a girl standing next to the teapot. A dog is being walked in the bottom right corner. The background shows a green field with rolling hills and a striped awning over a stall.

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 (emergency only)	999
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 & Emergencies	0800 783 4444
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 May 27th

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	07771882475
	Mr Paul Stanfield	(01242) 463626
PCC Secretary	Mrs Antoinette Wilson	(01452) 856907
PCC Treasurer		
Gift Aid Officer	Mr Roger Brown	07771882475
Sacristan		
Verger	Mrs Rachel Cottell	(01452) 715034
Captain of Bells	Mr David Turner	(01452) 712302
Electoral Roll Officer	Mr Roger Brown	07771882475
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	07887791230

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

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.*

Thy Kingdom Come 2026: ‘God with us’

From 14 to 24 May 2026, Christians around the world will once again unite in prayer as part of Thy Kingdom Come.



This year's theme, 'God with us', focuses on the presence of God through His spirit. It reminds us that God is not distant but involved in the everyday moments of our lives – in both joy and sorrow and everything in between.

Taking place during the eleven days between Ascension Day and Pentecost, this global movement invites us to pray for more people to come to know Jesus, while also renewing our own faith in the power of prayer.

Throughout these eleven days, Christians are invited to take part in daily reflections, drawing on stories from scripture such as the story of Ruth and the story of Gideon. Each is intended to reveal something of God's transformative presence, faithfulness and power that's at work in ordinary people and situations.

As we reflect and pray, we are invited to recognise that same presence at work in our own lives and communities. At its heart is an invitation to pray each day for five people we know - whether it be friends, family, neighbours or colleagues – that they might encounter the love of Christ.

As churches and individuals across our diocese and beyond join in, this is an opportunity to come together with a shared purpose,

trusting that God is at work in the lives of those we hold before Him.

Whether you are new to prayer or have taken part in previous years, Thy Kingdom Come offers a fresh opportunity to join this global wave of prayer. Individuals, households and churches are all encouraged to take part in ways that feel natural and meaningful to them – through personal devotion, small groups, or gathered worship.

To help individuals and churches get involved this year, there are a range of free resources on the Thy Kingdom Come website to help guide you through; this includes daily prayer resources (Novena) written by Archbishop Sarah Mullally, a 2026 prayer journal, and practical ideas for ways your church can take part → visit <https://www.thykingdomcome.global/resources-0>

Faith stories: Barnaby's transformation

24-year-old Barnaby worships at Trinity Cheltenham, where becoming part of the community has profoundly shaped his life. Through Trinity's SPEAR programme he has gained confidence, employability skills, and a renewed purpose, while also exploring the Christian faith through Alpha – a journey that led to his baptism.

“In March 2023, I met two SPEAR representatives at the job centre. This was when my trajectory changed,” Barnaby said. “They were so kind and encouraging, and they suggested I take part in the SPEAR programme.”

Through SPEAR, he completed employability training and learnt the importance of confidence and communication, while being surrounded by people who believed in his potential.

“It introduced me to a supportive community. They encouraged me to try the Alpha course, and this was the big turning point for me spiritually. Alpha really ignited my faith, and it was the moment when I decided I wanted to follow this.”

Barnaby has been attending Trinity for around two years and was baptised in March.

“The first time I went to church, I had a really strong experience... it’s been transformative. It’s been so good for my mental health.”

He now works at The Armoury gym and continues to stay involved with SPEAR, returning to SPEAR celebrations to share his story.

Read Barnaby’s full faith story at <https://gloucester.anglican.org/2026/faith-stories-barnabys-transformation/>

Christian Aid Week 2026

Christian Aid Week takes place from 10 to 16 May. This year, Christian Aid is focusing on supporting mothers in Nairobi, Kenya, as they face urban poverty and the daily challenge of providing food for their children. Churches can take part in Christian Aid Week in a variety of ways, including collections, fundraising events, prayer, and raising awareness. Further information is available at <https://caw.christianaid.org.uk>

Events and training

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

NeoAncients, St Laurence Church, The Shambles, Stroud, GL5 1JL, 1 to 3 May A three-day folklore festival with music, art, film, talks, books, dance ritual and lore.

https://stlaurencestroud.uk/event_custom/neoancients/

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/>

The music of Coldplay by candlelight, Tewkesbury Abbey, GL20 5RZ, 9 May, 6.15pm and 8.30pm A concert of Coldplay songs featuring a live band and vocalists, coming from the West End.

<https://boxoffice.concertsbycandlelight.com/events/kindadustyltd/2040110>

Music festival at Chipping Campden, St James Church, Church Street, Chipping Campden, GL55 6JG, 11 to 23 May A classical music festival featuring 17 concerts over two weeks, with performances from world-class artists.
<https://www.campdenmayfestivals.co.uk/music/events>

Have your say

Visit Facebook [f/Diocese.of.Gloucester](https://www.facebook.com/Diocese.of.Gloucester), email Katherine at kclamp@glosdioc.org.uk, follow us on Twitter [@glosdioc](https://twitter.com/glosdioc), view videos on YouTube [Diocese of Gloucester](https://www.youtube.com/Diocese%20of%20Gloucester) or visit our website gloucester.anglican.org

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



WHEELS
(and tea)
on the GREEN

Saturday 13th June

Midday until 16:00

*On Little Witcombe Village
Green GL3 4SY*

**REFRESHMENTS
SERVED**

**From midday-14:00
Burgers, Soft Drinks**

From 14:00-16:00

**A community event
for everyone**

**All types of wheels
welcome**

Avellana in Concert

Sat May 2nd 7:30pm



Sonorous jazz for
saxophone and guitar from Simon
Greening and Paul Mahon.

"Expect sensitive pieces on the borders of
contemporary classical and jazz "

Holy Trinity Church, Church Lane, Badgeworth, GL51 4UL

Tickets on Headfirst <https://hdfst.uk/e152205> £10 in Adv
or £12 on the door.

Doors 7:00 pm. Refreshments available



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. 21st May we meet with a talk on classic, rare and unusual bulbs by Gill Hazel.

On Saturday 20th June we are holding a show. We have various rose classes, as well as violas, clematis etc. Viewing is between 3-4pm.

On 16th July we have a talk by Robert Bryant, on the natural world of Gloucestershire.

Look forward to seeing you at one of these meetings.

Stay safe keep gardening
Janette Willis (Secretary)





4th SATURDAY COFFEE MORNINGS

**SHURDINGTON CHURCH HALL
10am to Noon**

**23rd MAY, 27th JUNE, 25th JULY
22nd AUGUST, 26th SEPTEMBER
24th OCTOBER, 21st NOVEMBER**

**RAFFLE, BOOKS, PLANTS,
COFFEE, CAKE, BRIC-A-BRAC**

**IN AID OF THE REFURBISHMENT OF THE
CHURCH HALL**





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

© Godfrey Browning 2003

Greenway Gifts

♥ 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

BENTHAM CHURCHYARD

CAN YOU HELP?

The PCC of St Mary's Church is responsible for the upkeep of the Churchyard at Bentham, where many local people have relatives buried, and it is important to keep it looking good.

We should be very grateful for some help with mowing – we have a rota with some generous volunteers, but we could do with more to lighten their load. If you think you could help or would like more information, please contact Sue Padfield (Churchwarden) on 01452 862509 or suepadfield@btinternet.com

BEING ECO CHURCH

Wednesday 20 May is World Bee Day

There is evidence that populations of bees and other pollinators are less healthy and abundant than they have been. If action is not taken, pollinator declines will have serious implications for biodiversity, food production and the ornamental garden. RHS 2026

What do pollinators do for us?

We have pollinators to thank for every third mouthful we eat. Not only do they pollinate our food crops, but they're also vital for the survival of other wild plants that support so much of our wildlife.

Most of us tend to think of bees in relation to pollination, yet insect pollinators are an incredibly diverse group. Honeybees are mostly kept in managed hives, and are likely responsible for pollinating between 5-15% of the UK's insect-pollinated crops. That leaves 85-95% of the UK's insect-pollinated crops relying on wild pollinators. Many species of bee, wasp, moth, butterfly, hoverfly, fly and beetle provide an essential service in the UK (and globally) pollinating £690 million worth of crops annually. Taking over this job ourselves would be difficult and time-consuming and would cost us an estimated £1.8 billion every year!

Why are pollinators under threat?

Three bumblebee species have become extinct in recent decades. The recent European Red List for Bees reports that almost one in ten species of wild bee face extinction, and over the past 50 years, half the bee, butterfly and moth species studied in the 2013 State of Nature Report have declined.

We can directly link these declines to changes in the way we farm. The intensification of agriculture has led to the destruction of habitat, and what is left is becoming increasingly fragmented. Further habitat loss is driven by urbanisation, and insect pollinators are also affected by the heavy use of pesticides and herbicides, more habitat the effects of climate change, and disease. The Wildlife Trusts

Five fantastic facts about wild bees

- Queen bumblebees are one of the earliest pollinators to emerge in spring They can vibrate and warm up their flight muscles enabling them to fly in cooler weather

- Tree bumblebees arrived in the UK around a decade ago and are now widespread. You may even find them nesting in a bird box in your garden
- A foraging bumblebee with a full stomach is only ever about 40 minutes from starvation
- Bumblebees collect pollen to take back to the hive in 'pollen baskets' on their back legs.
- Bumblebees are known for nesting in strange places – nests have been found under a disused lawnmower and inside a rolled-up carpet. The Wildlife Trusts

How can we help?

Here are a few simple actions that anyone can take to help pollinators:

- Grow more nectar rich flowers, shrubs and trees. Using window or balcony boxes are good options if you do not have a garden.
- Let patches of garden and land grow wild.
- Cut grass less often to allow lawn 'weeds' to flower
- Do not disturb insect nests and hibernation spots, provide nest sites for wild bees
- Provide water for pollinators
- Think carefully about whether to use pesticides and never spray open flowers.

Need more information? Here are some useful links:

Download a wild bee action pack from <https://wildlifetrusts.org/sites/default/files/2017-12/ecxt.pdf>

Find details of what to plant for pollinators at

<https://www.rhs.org.uk/science/articles/plants-for-pollinators-update>



**Ascension Day
Holy Communion
&
Breakfast**

**Thursday 14th May
2026
8am**

**St Mary's church,
Great Witcombe**

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23/04/2026

28/05/2026

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Discovering St Mary's Church, Great Witcombe

There are places in the Cotswolds that feel curated, honey-stone villages, neat tearooms, postcard perfection. And then there are places like Great Witcombe, which you find almost by accident.

A narrow lane dips and twists along the edge of the escarpment. The traffic fades, the air sharpens, and suddenly the landscape opens into a secluded valley. It's here, half-hidden among trees and sloping pasture, that St Mary's Church quietly waits, unchanged in all the ways that matter.

The beauty of being overlooked

St Mary's doesn't announce itself. There's no grand approach, no busy square. Instead, you come upon it gently: a low stone building, weathered and settled into the land as though it has always belonged there.

And in a sense, it has. A church has stood on this site since the 12th century, when Norman builders brought their solid, confident style to even the most rural corners of England. Step inside, and you're immediately face to face with that history in the Norman chancel arch, its carved *dog-tooth* pattern still crisp enough to catch the light.

It's the kind of detail you might miss if you rush, but this is not a place that rewards rushing.

Layers you can feel

Spend a little time inside and the centuries begin to reveal themselves. Nothing is labelled or staged; instead, the church invites you to notice.

There's medieval glass in the windows, fragments, worn but luminous, casting soft colour onto ancient stone. The walls don't quite align the way you expect. The proportions shift subtly as you move through the space. It all speaks of a building that has grown slowly, shaped by generations rather than designed in a

single moment.

Unlike many churches in more famous villages, St Mary's escaped Victorian restoration. What you see is closer to what people would have known hundreds of years ago: a working church, adapted but never reinvented.

A valley with a long memory

What makes the setting even more striking is how deep the history here runs. Just beyond the church lie the remains of a Roman villa, showing this quiet valley has drawn people for nearly two thousand years.

It's a humbling thought. Long before the Cotswolds became a destination, before England itself took shape, people were living, farming, and building lives in this same sheltered fold of land. St Mary's feels like part of that long story, not an isolated landmark but one chapter in a much older narrative.

The stillness of the place

What lingers most after a visit isn't any single feature, it's the atmosphere.

There's a particular stillness here, broken only by birdsong or the wind moving through the trees. The churchyard, simple and unassuming, looks out over the valley. It's the kind of place where time doesn't stop exactly, but it does seem to loosen its grip.

St Mary's is an active church. Services still take place, prayers are still said. It hasn't become a museum piece; it's simply carried on.

Why it's worth the detour

In a region known for its beauty, St Mary's Church offers something slightly different: not spectacle, but authenticity.

You won't find crowds here. You won't find curated experiences or carefully managed viewpoints. What you will find is a place that has endured, quietly, steadily for nearly 900 years.

Portrait of a Mother

A mother can be almost any size or age, but she won't admit to anything over thirty.

She has soft hands and smells good.

A mother likes new dresses, music, a clean house, her children's kisses, an automatic washer, and Daddy.

A mother doesn't like having her children sick, muddy feet, temper tantrums, loud noise, or bad report cards.

She can read a thermometer (much to the amazement of Daddy) and like magic, can kiss a hurt away.

She can also bake good cakes and pies, but likes to see her children eat vegetables.

A mother can stuff a fat baby into a snowsuit in seconds and can kiss little faces and make them smile.

She is underpaid, has long hours, and gets very little rest.

She worries too much about her children.

And no matter how old they are, she still likes to think of them as her little babies.

A mother is the guardian angel of the family, the queen, the tender hand of love.

She is the best friend anyone ever has.

A mother is love.

Author unknown

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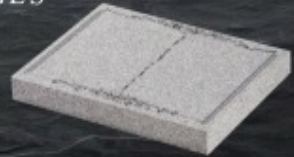
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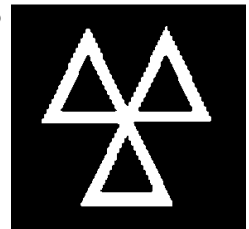
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