

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

Three in One



Seated Figure of Summer

Giuseppe Arcimboldo

July/August 2026

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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
September 2026 issue to
John Cummins at editor3in1@gmail.com
by Wednesday 19th August 2026



Pastoral Letter

Sue writes



July/August
2026

Dear Friends,

As I write this – in early June – I am looking out on the most amazing abundance; the spring's rain and subsequent warm weather have combined to enable wonderful displays of roses; earlier in the year the cherry and fruit tree blossom was magnificent and since then wisteria and many other flowering shrubs all seem to have had a bumper year.

Perhaps it's an age thing, but every year I seem to marvel more at the wonder of God's creation. Such abundance, however, does have its drawbacks in the amount of unwanted growth threatening to take over parts of my garden and the speed with which the churchyards' grass seems to grow.

The rhythm of the seasons is, I find, a comforting constancy in a world which seems ever more fast-changing and unpredictable and therefore frightening. It reminds us of God's constancy and steadfastness in such a world – he has promised us that he will always be there.

I am very fond of the Book of Psalms – those ancient songs of the Israelites that have been handed down to us from Old Testament times – many written by King David himself, who lived around 1000BC. Many express the difficulties met in life, but always come back to the constancy of God and many indicate that the writer found that constancy through the Creation; for instance:

PSALM 19 *“THE HEAVENS DECLARE THE GLORY OF GOD; THE SKIES PROCLAIM THE WORK OF HIS HANDS,” (ALSO SET AS AN ANTHEM TO WONDERFUL MUSIC BY HAYDN IN HIS “CREATION” ORATORIO).*

PSALM 8 *“WHEN I CONSIDER YOUR HEAVENS, THE WORK OF YOUR FINGERS... WHAT IS MANKIND THAT YOU ARE MINDFUL OF THEM?”*

PSALM 104 *“HOW MANY ARE YOUR WORKS, LORD! IN WISDOM YOU MADE THEM ALL; THE EARTH IS FULL OF YOUR CREATURES.”*

There are 150 psalms and it seems there is a psalm for every mood – some for awe, wonder and praise as the ones above. John Stott (an evangelist, one time Rector of All Souls', Langham Place, and a director of the London Institute of Contemporary Christianity) quoted in his preface to a book of Favourite Psalms: “The reason why people are drawn to the Psalms is that they speak the universal language of the human soul”

There are psalms for the hard times, too; most of us are probably familiar with the comforting words of Psalm 23: “The Lord's my shepherd....Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death I will fear no evil for you are with me” – much used in funerals, as is Psalm 121: “I lift up my eyes to the hills – where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth. The Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and for evermore” I have found that Psalm 91 provides comfort for those going through illness (much used during the Covid pandemic): “Surely he will save you from the deadly pestilence; he will cover you with feathers and under his wings you will find refuge...” Jesus loved the psalms and often quoted them, seeing himself as the innocent suffering victim in Psalm 22 for instance.

If, having read this, you decide to dip into the Psalms, I hope you find them helpful, uplifting and comforting, as I do.
With very best wishes, Sue (Churchwarden at Witcombe)

Benefice Diary

July

Thursday	2	Welcome Table	6
Saturday	4	Coffee and Chat	25
Friday	10	Books and Banter	15
Sunday	12	Witcombe Family Funday	36
Monday	13	Open Monday	14
Thursday	16	Gardening Society	23
Wednesday	22	Julian Meeting	11
Saturday	25	Coffee Morning	24
Monday	27	Open Monday	14

August

Saturday	1	Coffee and Chat	25
Sat/Sun	8/9	Model Railway Weekend	35
Monday	10	Open Monday	14
Saturday	15	Gardening Society Show	23
Saturday	22	Coffee Morning	24
Wednesday	26	Julian Meeting	11
Monday	31	Open Monday	14

Every Monday (except Bank Holidays) Greenway Gifts

Every Thursday in term-time Community Choir

SAVE the DATE!

(WITCOMBE w BENTHAM COMMUNITY EVENTS)

Sunday 12 July Family Fun-Day at the Cricket Club

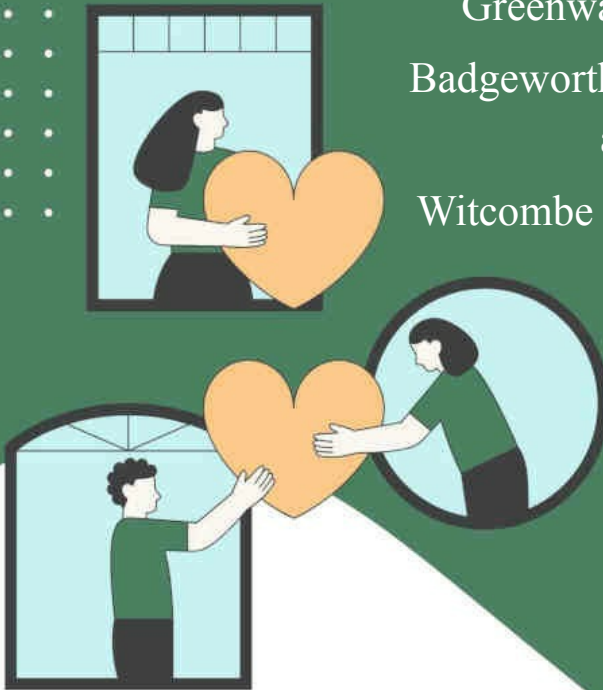
(reserve date 19th)

Saturday 5 September Picnic-in-the-Park

Friday 16 October The Quiz

Saturday 28 November Bingo and Fish'nChips

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?

Are you a carer and would like for you both to come out for coffee?

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!

Come and join us at

The Welcome Table,

at the Fiore Lounge, Bath Road GL53 7NB

Thursday 2nd July

Thursday 6th August

10.30am = 12noon

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

info@cabic.co.uk



SAVE the DATE!

DATES for your DIARY

ALL WELCOME

*FORTH-COMING COMMUNITY EVENTS
at WITCOMBE*

Sunday 12 July Family Fun-Day at the Cricket Club

(reserve date 19th)

Saturday 5 September Picnic-in-the-Park

Friday 16 October The Quiz

Saturday 28 November Bingo and Fish'nChips

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.

AFTERNOON TEA



WITH PRIZE RAFFLE



SATURDAY
18th JULY

2-4pm

ST PAUL'S
CHURCH HALL,
SHURDINGTON



RAISING FUNDS
FOR OUR CHURCH



EVERYONE WELCOME!



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 July 22nd and Wednesday August 26th

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 10th July

2026 – 2nd Fridays of the month

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.

What are ordinations?

At the end of June, Gloucester Cathedral once again became the setting for two joyful and significant services as the Diocese of Gloucester marked the ordination of 18 new candidates.

For many people, the word '*ordination*' may not be familiar word. Ordination is a church service that marks someone becoming a priest.

For those being ordained, it comes after years of thinking, training and prayer about where God is calling them.

Over the last weekend in June, eleven people were ordained as priests and seven as what are called 'deacons'.

Deacons are called to a ministry of service, both within the Church and in the wider community. They often focus on outreach, pastoral care, and helping the Church engage with the needs of the world.

Many deacons are later ordained priest, but they will still be a deacon, keeping that element of service to others at the core of their ministry.

One of those ordained as deacon this year was Andy Everett, whose journey to ministry has unfolded over many years. He first came to faith more than 35 years ago after being invited to church by his future wife, Kathryn, and went on to be baptised and grow in Christian faith alongside a long career in primary education, including 23 years as a headteacher in church schools.

After moving to Mickleton in 2022, Andy and Kathryn began attending local churches and sensed again a growing call to

ordained ministry, which had first been raised nearly a decade earlier. A further prompt from within the church community helped confirm that sense of calling, leading Andy to begin training for ordination at Ripon College Cuddesdon in 2023. He said: “I feel that God is already at work in these communities. I’m just being asked to join in.”

You can read Andy’s full faith journey at <https://gloucester.anglican.org/2026/andys-journey-from-headteacher-to-ordinand/>

Priests build on that foundation of service and take on additional responsibilities. They can lead Holy Communion, offer forgiveness, and blessings, and play a central role in the pastoral and spiritual life of a parish. Ordination as a priest usually comes after time spent serving as a deacon.

Family, friends, clergy and congregations from across the diocese all gathered at the ordinations to support and pray for the ordinands. We give thanks for the gifts, dedication and vocation they bring to their parishes and communities.

People can be called to many things, from ordained ministry, to nursing, to art. If you’d like to think about where God is calling you, speak to your priest.

RECOGNISE: Children, Youth and Family Ministry reflections

Working in Children, Young People and Families Ministry (CYFM) can involve everything from storytelling and craft activities to pastoral support, school partnerships and helping families feel at home in church. Yet much of this work often happens quietly, behind the scenes.

That is why RECOGNISE, a national week celebrating everyone involved in ministry with children, young people and families, matters so much. Taking place from 6 to 12 July, the initiative

aims to shine a light on the people who dedicate their time and care to nurturing faith in younger generations. Churches across the country will be joining in a shared moment of gratitude for the people who help children and families grow in faith.

This year, Rachel Laughton, Children and Families Worker at Hempsted, has been nominated to represent the diocese at a special RECOGNISE celebration at Lambeth Palace. She has worked in her role for five and a half years.

"When I work with children and young people, I try and make anything I do as child led as possible and make sure they feel listened to. It's important they have an outlet, and for them to know and feel that what they do is valued.

"We can learn so much from younger people. It's a very two-way thing. It's not just us providing and giving information and teaching and nurturing. It's definitely a partnership in spiritual growth."

Find out more at <https://www.churchofengland.org/about/children-and-young-people/doubling-number-children-and-young-people/30k-project/recognise>

Have your say

Visit Facebook **f/Diocese.of.Gloucester**, email Katherine at kclamp@glosdioc.org.uk, follow us on Twitter **@glosdioc**, view videos on YouTube **Diocese of Gloucester** or visit our website **gloucester.anglican.org**

Events and training

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

William Tyndale – 500 years of his English New Testament, Lady Chapel in Tewkesbury Abbey, Church Street, Tewkesbury GL20 5RZ now until 13 August,

An exhibition about William Tyndale, including a full-colour facsimile of his New Testament.

<https://gloucester.anglican.org/event/william-tyndale-500-years-of-his-english-new-testament/>

‘Letters from the Global South’ exhibition, St John Baptist Cirencester, 4 to 9 July, 10am to 4pm, An exhibition based on the comments of children who experience the extremes of global warming, particularly in the southern hemisphere.

<https://gloucester.anglican.org/event/letters-from-the-global-south-exhibition/>

Summer fete, St Mary’s Tetbury, 4 July, 2pm to 4.30pm, Raising funds for the church, the summer fete includes tea and cakes, stalls, a raffle and a visit to the church tower to learn about the bells and see views of Tetbury and the surrounding area.
<https://tetburychurch.co.uk/church-summer-fete-saturday-4th-july/>

The Three Choirs festival, Gloucester Cathedral, 25 July to 3 August, A superb concert series featuring festival choirs, world-class soloists and the Philharmonia Orchestra, with evening, late-night and daytime performances set around Gloucester Cathedral’s Festival Village.

<https://gloucestercathedral.org.uk/whats-on/three-choirs-festival>

St Paul's Shurdington

your Parish Church

Here for everyone for over 700 years.

The church is usually open daily as a place for quiet reflection. Whether it's just an escape from the busy world, or somewhere to feel closer to God, *everyone is welcome*. Services are held at least three Sundays every month, more during special seasons. Whether you attend regularly or not, the church is here for all your big events in life - **Weddings, christenings and funerals**. The churchyard is open to all. As well as a sacred space for burials, it is a haven for wildlife, and a quiet place to enjoy nature. It's more than just the building – **people are important too** - we try to be a **welcoming** community, and a source of **support** for all. We still organise regular coffee mornings, a **community choir**, and other **social events**, open to everyone. Our clergy and some members of the congregation provide a **Listening Team** for anyone who needs it. As a benefice (with Witcombe and Badgeworth churches) we set up a weekly non-referral **foodbank** during Covid which is still needed by local people. St Paul's provides the hall and storage space for this at no cost, so all donations and grants can be spent on food.

But now St Paul's needs your help.

Our regular congregation is small, and we are no longer able to meet our annual costs – **last year we made a loss of over £10,000** on running the church and churchyard, and we have only limited reserves – our auditor has warned that these will be exhausted in a very few years. We are part of the **Church of England**, but they **do not provide us with financial support** -on the contrary, we are asked annually to contribute substantially towards the cost of the

diocese as well as paying for the maintenance and running cost of the church itself.

Last year the cost of keeping the church open and running was £38,336 – an average of £105 per day.

How can you help?

At the last census there were just under 1000 households in the village - just £10 extra *per year* from each of those would go a long way towards solving our problem, though we recognise that many people may be already giving as much as they can afford

We would also value your help in other ways. Many of the maintenance tasks that used to be carried out by volunteers now have to be paid for, as our main congregation is getting older.

Could you:

- Join a cleaning rota for the church
- Be part of a regular maintenance work party for the churchyard
- Organise fundraising events with us
- Other ideas welcome!

Please get in touch if you'd like to help us:

email greenway.bswb.office@gmail.com

Have a word with Revd Susan
or Revd Daniel (contact numbers
in the parish magazine and on our
achurchnearyou pages)

Scan this barcode to make
a one off or regular donation:



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.

We have certainly caught up on the rain, I do know the gardens needed it but hopefully summer will be here soon.

Thursday 16th July will be a talk by Robert Bryant on the natural world of Gloucestershire.

On Saturday 15th August, we hold our annual show. Categories include flowers, vegetables, craft and cookery. If you would like a show schedule please contact Mr Gary Woodruffe. Viewing will be at 3pm, so even if you are not showing please come along and support us.

Hope to see you at one of our events in the future.

Stay safe keep gardening

Janette Willis (Secretary)

WANTED for WITCOMBE FAMILY FUN DAY

We should be grateful for any kind donations of
BOTTLES, any kind – full and unopened – for Bottle Stall,
or PLANTS - for Plants Stall

We should be happy to collect.

Please contact: Christine: 01452 862399



4th SATURDAY COFFEE MORNINGS

**SHURDINGTON CHURCH HALL
10am to Noon**

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 4th July

**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**



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!





presents



SATURDAY 11TH JULY @ 7PM

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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 -July and August

We have two challenges to think about in this edition: Plastic Free July and Looking after wildlife in the heat.

Plastic Free July (and beyond!) You may already be familiar with the concept of reducing single use plastic waste, and perhaps have joined in the annual campaigns such as refusing to use single use plastic bags or cups. This year, ARocha asks us to focus on microplastics in laundry, and their impact on ocean life.

A lot of the clothes we wear are made of plastics like polyester and nylon. Each time we wash them, these materials shed microfibrils – tiny pieces of plastic, thinner than a strand of hair. Some of these fibres are so small they can drain out of our washing machines and pass straight through wastewater treatment plants into the sea.

Even though all fabrics shed fibres, synthetic fibres can have a lasting impact on the environment as they take longer to degrade than organic fibres such as cotton and break down into smaller microplastics which are then ingested by wildlife and continue to degrade and release toxic chemicals into the organisms that have eaten them.

When we wash our clothes, wastewater is transported through the sewage system to treatment facilities, where up to 92% of fibres are filtered and disposed of as ‘sludge’. But not all microfibrils are captured during this process. Globally, an estimated 200-500,000 tonnes of microfibrils are released into the ocean every year. We do not yet know the long-term impacts of microplastics on marine ecosystems, or on human health.

What can we do about this? Here are some ideas from WWF UK to reduce the amount of microplastics sneaking into our waterways and ending up in the ocean:

Reduce microplastics at the source by choosing natural fibres such as wool, hemp, silk and linen. For synthetic materials, use a microfibre bag, such as GuppyFriend, which collect some of these microplastics in their meshes. They can then be scooped out in a clump and placed in your rubbish bin. There are also microfibre

collection balls, such as the Cora ball, or you could add a microfibre filter to your washing machine.

In August we are challenged to Look after wildlife in the heat.

Times of drought and dryness can be dangerous for wildlife. Provide water for birds and insects - put a dish of water out to help wildlife stay hydrated. Insects, small mammals, birds, and even badgers, foxes, and deer could benefit. A stone in a plant saucer helps bees to perch and drink without drowning.

Provide food as well - drought can mean that grains dry up faster and insect numbers reduce, so wildlife relies on us for extra support.

Keeping grass long will help retain moisture, provide a source of shelter for insects and mammals and keep the topsoil from blowing away.

These small actions make a big difference and are just some of the ways we can live out our calling to care for God's creation.

Find more details at:

<https://www.wwf.org.uk/challenges/use-microfibre-bag>

<https://www.plasticfreejuly.org/get-involved/what-you-can-do/plastic-free-laundry/>

<https://arocha.org.uk/looking-after-wildlife-in-the-heat/>

GHCT Ride & Stride

The annual "Ride & Stride" in aid of the Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust will be taking place on Saturday, 12th September, and a team will again be walking on behalf of St Mary's. We will be fundraising to support the fabric and mission of the historic churches of Gloucestershire, including our parish church of St Mary, Witcombe with Bentham. [50% of all money we raise in sponsorship -exclusive of Gift Aid - goes to St Mary's.]

It would be wonderful if you could support us; the next edition will include details of how to do this. Sue

Light and Mystery:

Visiting St Paul's, Shurdington

There are some churches that announce themselves from miles away, their towers rising boldly above the landscape. St Paul's Church in Shurdington is one of them. Approaching the village from the surrounding Gloucestershire countryside, your eye is inevitably drawn to its elegant spire, a landmark that seems to stand watch over the fields, lanes and homes gathered beneath it.

Set on the lower slopes of the Cotswold escarpment, Shurdington enjoys wide views across the Severn Vale, and St Paul's occupies a position that feels both prominent and welcoming. The church has medieval roots, and has been extended and renovated throughout the centuries, it possesses the quiet confidence of a building that has become deeply woven into the life of its community.

The first impression is undoubtedly architectural. Constructed from warm local stone, the church rises gracefully from its churchyard, but it is the spire that captures the imagination. Tall, slender and beautifully proportioned, it points heavenward with a simplicity that has inspired generations of worshippers. On a bright day it stands sharp against the blue sky; on misty mornings it emerges almost magically from the cloud that sometimes drifts along the escarpment. For walkers exploring the footpaths around Shurdington, the spire often serves as a reassuring point of reference, guiding them home across the landscape.

Stepping through the church doors, however, reveals treasures that are more easily missed by those who admire only the exterior.

The nave is light and spacious, inviting visitors to pause and allow their eyes to adjust from the brightness outside. Here, among the stone, timber and quiet atmosphere of prayer, can be found one of the church's most intriguing features: the Green

Man.

The Green Man is an ancient symbol that appears in churches across Britain and Europe. Usually depicted as a face emerging from or surrounded by foliage, he represents the deep connection between humanity and the natural world. In Christian churches he often serves as a reminder of creation, renewal and the cycles of life that speak of God's sustaining presence.

At St Paul's, visitors who take the time to look carefully may discover this enigmatic figure gazing out from the fabric of the building. St Paul's Green man takes more of a grotesque form with his prominent teeth and foliage emerging from his mouth. Children often enjoy the challenge of searching for him, while adults are drawn to the questions he raises about faith, nature and the enduring power of symbols. Like many Green Men, he seems both playful and mysterious, a silent observer of countless services, weddings, baptisms and funerals.

Yet the greatest artistic treasures of St Paul's lie beyond the nave, within the sanctuary.

Here the visitor encounters the remarkable Denny windows, among the most striking features of the church interior. Created by the distinguished stained-glass artist Thomas Denny, these windows transform the sanctuary with colour and light. Their beauty changes throughout the day as the sun moves across the sky, casting rich hues onto the stonework and creating an atmosphere that feels both intimate and transcendent.

Even those with little interest in stained glass often find themselves captivated. The windows reward careful study. Figures emerge from brilliant colours, biblical themes unfold in intricate detail, and the craftsmanship reveals itself in every panel. The artistry is impressive, but what makes the windows particularly memorable is their ability to draw the eye beyond themselves. Like all great church art, they are not merely decorative; they invite contemplation. As you explore them, spotting local landmarks and locations you are reminded that the windows are rooted in the place, and they invite you to see God

in the landscape around you.

On a sunny morning, shafts of coloured light spill across the sanctuary floor and communion rail, creating moments of extraordinary beauty. At such times it becomes easy to understand why churches have long used stained glass not simply as illustration but as a way of expressing something of the glory and mystery of God.

Perhaps that is what makes St Paul's such a rewarding destination. It combines the familiar comforts of an English village church with details that surprise and delight. The soaring spire offers a visible sign of faith within the landscape. The Green Man provides a touch of mystery and folklore. The Denny windows fill the sanctuary with colour, story and wonder.

Whether you arrive as a pilgrim, a lover of architecture, a walker seeking shelter, or simply a curious traveller exploring the villages south of Cheltenham, St Paul's Church offers more than a brief stop on a journey. It invites you to slow down, look closely and discover beauty in stone, glass and light.

And as you leave, stepping once more into the churchyard and glancing back at the spire reaching into the Gloucestershire sky, you may find that this modest village church lingers in the memory far longer than expected.

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<https://www.badgeworthvillagehall.org.uk/> Telephone 07518137635

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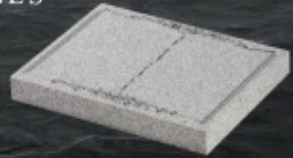
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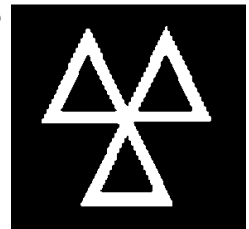
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