

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

Three in One



September 2026

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£1

Three in One Magazine

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THREE IN ONE MAGAZINE

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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 services use the Book of Common Prayer as their basis*

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

4th Thursday at 2pm Said Holy Communion at St Paul's

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
October 2026 issue to
John Cummins at editor3in1@gmail.com
by Wednesday 16th September 2026



Pastoral Letter

Daniel writes



September
2026

Dear Friends,

There is something rather lovely about September. Perhaps it is the promise of cooler weather, or the hope of some much-needed rain after our long, hot summer. Maybe it is the changing light, the shortening evenings, or the first suggestion that autumn is beginning to stir. September isn't quite the beginning of the year, and yet somehow it feels like one. The rhythm of life changes. School bags reappear, holidays become memories, diaries begin to fill, and familiar routines return. For some, there are exciting new beginnings: a child starting school, a young person leaving for university, a new job or a new home. For others, September may bring a quieter change, a sense that one season of life is ending and another is beginning.

I think about this whenever I walk along the Greenway. It is, after all, a road that has been carrying people between seasons for a very long time. The Greenway takes its name from the ancient route that once carried sheep from their winter quarters around Badgeworth towards their summer pastures on the hills above. Today, it is an altogether quieter road. I walk it with the dog rather than a flock of sheep, but there is still something about following that ancient path which makes me think about the journeys of those who have walked it before. There is the familiar crunch of stone

beneath your feet, the hedges and foliage rising on either side, the twists and turns where you cannot quite see what is around the corner. Then, occasionally, the trees open and the light suddenly floods in. It is an ordinary walk, and yet it never feels quite the same.

The weather changes. The fields change. The light changes. The trees change. Even the view that seemed so familiar yesterday can look completely different a few weeks later. And that is rather like life. We are always walking through seasons. There are seasons when everything seems to be growing, when the road ahead feels open and full of possibility. There are seasons when we seem to be walking through a darker stretch, when the hedges are high and we cannot see very far ahead. There are times when the road feels easy beneath our feet and others when we have to watch our footing. And then, often when we least expect it, the road turns and the light breaks through.

The Greenway reminds us too that we are not the first people to make this journey. For centuries, people have walked these roads and paths. They have travelled for work, for family, for necessity and for hope. They have carried their own joys and disappointments, their plans and their uncertainties. They too have watched the seasons change. The road has remained, even as the people travelling it have changed.

Our churches sit within that same landscape and are part of that long journey. Holy Trinity, St Paul's and St Mary's have stood through generations of changing seasons. People have entered their doors at the beginning of life and at its end; for weddings and baptisms, for Christmas and Easter, for Harvest, for funerals and for the ordinary Sundays in

between. Generations have brought their lives into these places. That is one of the quiet gifts of an old church: it reminds us that our own season is important, but it is not the whole story. We are walking a road that others have walked before us, and others will walk after us.

September therefore need not be a season of grand resolutions or reinventing ourselves. Perhaps it is simply an invitation to look at where we are on the road. To notice what this particular season is asking of us. To give thanks for the ground we have already travelled. To acknowledge the things that have been difficult. And then, when we are ready, to take the next step.

We do not need to see the whole road. The Greenway itself teaches us that. Around the next bend there may be something we cannot yet see: another stretch of woodland, an unexpected view, a pool of sunlight between the trees. We simply walk on not knowing exactly what the coming months will bring, but willing to walk into them. Not trying to hold on to the summer that is passing, but allowing ourselves to notice the beauty of the season that is arriving. The Greenway has carried travellers through summer and winter, through sunshine and rain, through generations of change. It carries us too. So, as we step into another autumn, may we walk with open eyes and grateful hearts. May we notice the changing light, the turning leaves and the familiar road beneath our feet. And, as the road turns once again, may we trust that there is always more ahead than we can see.

With Autumnal Blessings

Rev'd Daniel

Benefice Diary

September

Saturday	5	Coffee and Chat	26
		Picnic-in-the-Park	30
Tuesday	8	Evensong (St Mary)	
Friday	11	Books and Banter	16
Monday	14	Open Monday	15
Thursday	17	Gardening Society	24
Wednesday	23	Julian Meeting	12
Thursday	24	Holy Communion	33
Saturday	26	Coffee Morning	24
Sunday	27	Eco week begins	34-36
Monday	28	Open Monday	14

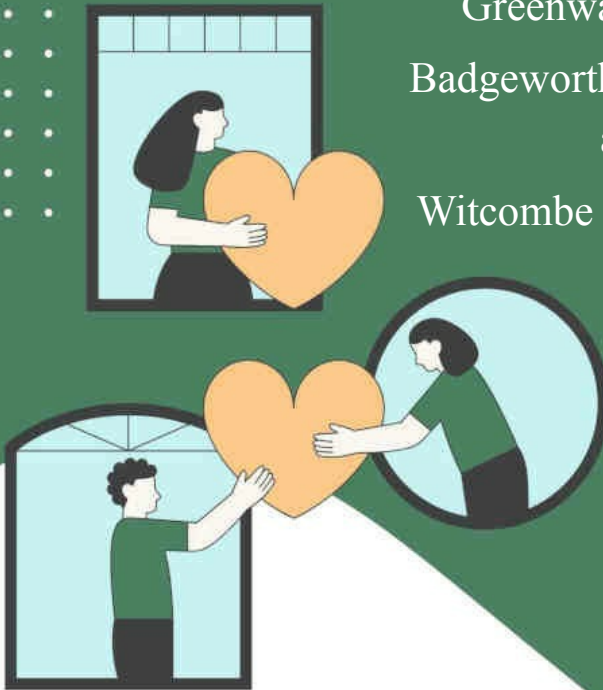
October

Saturday	3	Coffee and Chat	26
Sunday	4	Harvest Festivals	
		Memorial service Richard Mitchell	8
Friday	9	Books and Banter	16
Saturday	10	Harvest Supper	32
Monday	12	Open Monday	15
Thursday	15	Gardening Society Fish/Chips	24
Friday	16	The Witcombe Quiz	
Wednesday	21	Julian Meeting	11
Thursday	22	Holy Communion	33
Saturday	24	Coffee Morning	25
Monday	26	Open Monday	15

Every Monday (except Bank Holidays) Greenway Gifts

Every 2nd and 4th Thursday Community Choir 27

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

NEWS FROM THE VICARAGE

I wanted to share a few updates with you all.

INTERIM ASSISTANT ARCHDEACON

From 12th January to the end of June 2026, I worked in a different role, as Interim Assistant Archdeacon. I enjoyed the role, learned a lot both about how the diocese works and about myself! A big thank you to everyone who enabled the secondment to happen, and most especially to Revd Dan, who took on a lot more responsibility while I was elsewhere. Thank you all.

AREA DEAN

Now I am back in the parishes, but with a new additional role of Area Dean for Severn Vale. I am looking forward to taking on this extra responsibility, which won't take me away from the benefice as much.

NEW CURATE

At the end of June, we welcomed another curate, the Reverend Sarah Wood. Daniel will stay with us for a little longer until he is ready to apply for a job as a vicar. Here is a short biography from Sarah, who is settling in wonderfully and really enjoying being with us.

Sarah was born in Wales before the family moved to Cheltenham when she was aged five. "I have considered Cheltenham my home ever since. As an undergraduate student, I studied English Literature. I live locally and attended St Peter's Leckhampton, serving at the altar, and it was during my time there that I discovered my vocation to ordained ministry in the Church of England.

I trained for ordination at Ripon College Cuddesdon. I will be ordained at Gloucester Cathedral on Sunday 28th June. I am a keen golf caddy (perhaps keener than I am able) and an avid reader. I also enjoy walking, cycling, and travelling abroad. I keep myself entertained by watching TV dramas like The Other Miss

Bennett. I am very much looking forward to meeting and getting to know you and to serving the people of Greenway Benefice as assistant curate."

You will meet Sarah over the course of her time with us. She works full time and will mostly be in our parishes on Fridays and Sundays. Welcome again, Sarah.

CHURCH HALL KITCHEN REFIT

Some of you may know that we are having work done on the kitchen in St Paul's Church Hall during September. Please bear with us while the work is underway and remember to book the hall when it's all refurbished!

EXTRA EVENTS

This month we have a few extra events, with **Evensong at St Mary's on Tuesday 8th September** (time to be confirmed but likely to be 7pm). We also have **Eco-Week**, starting on **Sunday 27th September, in our service at St Paul's at 10:30am**. What will you do to join in Eco-Week? At the end of the week, we celebrate **Harvest** in all three churches, on **Sunday 4th October**.

THE REVEREND CANON RICHARD MITCHELL

Many of you will have heard of the sad loss of the Reverend Canon Richard Mitchell, who was vicar here for many years, before moving onto work at the cathedral. Richard was a much-loved man, and he will be greatly missed. We are planning to hold a service of evensong in his memory. Evensong was dear to Richard's heart. We understand that the cathedral will also be holding a service. We are planning to hold ours on **Sunday 4th October at 3pm**, so please put that date in your diaries, but be aware that if the cathedral's service is on the same day, we will postpone. Please keep Richard's family and close friends in your prayers. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

FINALLY

I'm so pleased to be back in the parishes. I missed you all very much and feel that parish ministry is still my core vocation. Thank you all for making Greenway such a wonderful place to minister. Love and blessings, Susan, Vicar.

SAVE the



DATE!

DATES for your DIARY

ALL WELCOME

FORTH-COMING COMMUNITY

EVENTS

at WITCOMBE

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 ref 100 Club.

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 September 23rd

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: iandavies@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	07747 630047
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.

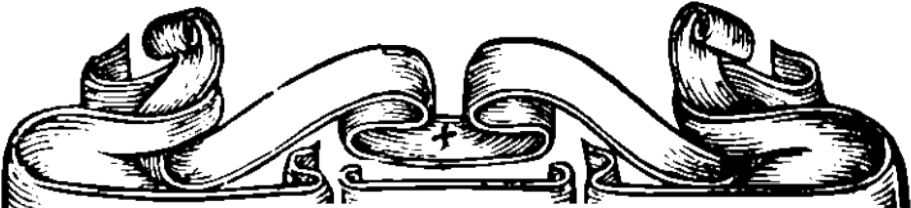
Between 2pm and 4pm, there will be a family film showing on our cinema system.

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

SECOND Friday of the month

11th September 9th October

13th November 11th December

New members are always welcome.

No meetings in April or August.

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.



Orchids from Hawaii: Lisa-Jayne's story

This September marks 25 years since the attacks of 11 September 2001. For Lisa-Jayne Lewis, Stewardship and Giving Advisor at the Diocese of Gloucester, the anniversary brings back memories of her time as a Salvation Army recovery chaplain at Ground Zero.

Lisa-Jayne was 24 when she joined the recovery operation in New York, ministering as a night chaplain alongside firefighters, police officers, Port Authority workers and Salvation Army personnel.

The experience stayed with her long after she returned home, but for many years she struggled to talk about it.

"I've spent a long time doubting my story, doubting what I had done, to the point of believing that wasn't real and that wasn't me," she said.

Now, she has shared her experience in '*Orchids from Hawaii*', a book reflecting on the recovery operation and the impact it has had on her life.

The title comes from a vivid memory of Ground Zero, when a Salvation Army team from Hawaii brought pink orchid leis for those working at the site. Against the devastation surrounding them, the flowers offered a moment of unexpected colour and hope.

"Those flowers became a symbol of hope," Lisa-Jayne said. "When reason and lived experience don't match up, I think that's where we have to put things like faith and hope."

The book took four years to write, beginning after Lisa-Jayne realised that a new generation of adults had grown up without

personal memories of 9/11.

Writing the book has helped her reclaim her own story: "I came to recognise that although 9/11 has a shared, collective memory, everyone affected carries their own experiences and memories. My story is my story, it belongs to me, and it's worth telling."

Orchids from Hawaii is available to pre-order now for release on 4 September at <https://orchidsfromhawaii.net/>

Big ideas, bold stories, brilliant prizes

Who inspires you? What stories have shaped our community? How can we build a better future together?

Black History Month is a celebration of the achievements, stories and experiences of Black and Brown people throughout history and today.

Held every October in the UK, it encourages us to learn from the past, celebrate diverse contributions to our communities and work together for a more inclusive future throughout the year.

Children and young people are invited to enter a poetry and art competition inspired by this year's Black History Month theme, *Dig deeper, look closer, think bigger*. The competition has been organised by the Diocese of Gloucester's Racial Justice Action Group. Explore the stories, experiences and achievements of Black and Brown people and share what they mean to you through poetry or art.

Ages 7-11 (top prize £20 voucher)

Think deeper about a Black or Brown individual in your community and write a poem or create a piece of art about their experience.

Ages 12-15 (top prize £30 voucher)

Look closer at the history of a Black or Brown individual or group of people and write a poem or create a piece of art about their experience.

Ages 16-18 (top prize £40 voucher)

“Dig deeper, look closer, think bigger” – what does this mean for our community? Represent your idea in art or poetry.

Enter online on our website at

<https://gloucester.anglican.org./2026/big-ideas-bold-stories-brilliant-prizes/>

Events and training

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

Stroud Day of Dance: 10 years of Miserden Morris, St Laurence, The Shambles, Stroud, GL5 1JL, 5 September, 8pm to 10.30pm

A celebration of 10 years of Miserden Morris, with a wonderful ceilidh from That Shallot.

https://stlaurencestroud.uk/event_custom/stroud-day-of-dance-10-years-of-miserden-morris/

Gloucester Cathedral organ festival: Gala concert, The Nave, 12 College Green, Gloucester, GL1 2LX, 12 September, 7pm

At the heart of Gloucester Cathedral's Organ Festival weekend is the landmark gala performance with the BBC National Orchestra of Wales.

<https://gloucestercathedral.org.uk/whats-on/gloucester-cathedral-organ-festival-gala-concert>

Heritage open day, St Stephen's Church, 42 St Stephen's Road, Cheltenham, GL51 3AB, 14 September

Discover the history of St Stephen's Church on a guided tour led by local historians.

<https://saintstephenscheltenham.org/churches-in-cheltenham/>

Classics in the Abbey: Pride and Prejudice, Tewkesbury Abbey, 29 September to 3 October

A comedic retelling of Jane Austen's Pride and Prejudice.

<https://www.rosestheatre.org/events/classics-in-the-abbey-pride-prejudice>

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**

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

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



What a summer!! I do hope that your garden has survived; don't worry about the lawn that will go green once we have some rain. Please make sure that water butts are ready to be filled.

We meet on Thursday 17th September at 7.30 in the Millennium Hall for a talk and practical demonstration on "New Plants from Old" by David Cropp.

Our other two meetings this year will be on 15th October with our Fish & Chip Supper (this is a booked meet) and 19th November for our AGM followed by a talk by Duncan Coombs.

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

Stay safe keep
gardening

Janette Willis (Secretary)



**4th SATURDAY
COFFEE
MORNINGS
SHURDINGTON CHURCH
HALL**

10am to Noon

26th SEPTEMBER

24th OCTOBER, 21st NOVEMBER

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



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





Sat 5th September

**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!



GREENWAY COMMUNITY CHOIR



If you enjoy singing and would like to sing with others, why not come along to this local choir?

2nd and 4th Thursdays at 7pm, for one hour, in the Church Hall, School Lane, Shurdington

There is no charge, although donations towards running the choir would be welcome, if you feel able.

This choir is for everyone and anyone, whether you can sing or not, whether you can read music or not, all voices. Singing is great for our physical and mental health, and a lovely way to make new friends. Under 18s are welcome, but they must be accompanied by an adult. Enquiries to revsusancooke@gmail.com, or just come along!

MEETING DATES FROM SEPTEMBER 2026:
10th Sep, 24th Sep, 8th Oct, 22nd Oct, 12th Nov, 26th Nov, 10th Dec, AND 17th Dec - choir bring a friend carols party!

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

The background of the poster is a vibrant, hand-drawn illustration of a park. It features a variety of flowers including yellow daisies, purple lavender, and pink blossoms. Several butterflies in shades of purple, pink, and yellow are scattered throughout. Two yellow lanterns hang from a string of colorful triangular bunting flags at the top. In the bottom right corner, a picnic basket sits on a red and white checkered blanket, with some food items visible. The overall style is cheerful and inviting.

Picnic in The Park

with Live MUSIC

Bring your own Picnic Tea, Cakes, Bar &
Raffle Set in the Gardens of Witcombe Park

Organised by WSF /PCC in aid of Church
and Community

SATURDAY 5 Sept

12:30 PM

Live Music:

1-3pm - Cygnet Duo - As seen at
Cheltenham Jazz Festival

3:30-5pm - Max Stockin - Singer/Songwriter

Witcombe Park

Great Witcombe, GL34TT

£5 per person, U16's free - advanced
tickets 01452 862399 or purchase on the
day (cash/card)

Strictly No Dogs

GHCT Ride & Stride



The annual “Ride & Stride” in aid of the Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust will be taking place on Saturday, 12th September, and Lynne Cooper and I will again be walking on behalf of St Mary’s. We will be fund-raising 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 justgiving link is

www.justgiving.com/page/suepadfield26

Thank you, Sue

Harvest Supper

St Paul's Church Hall

10th October

6.00pm for 6.30pm

£15 to include

**Cottage Pie, pudding, a glass
of something and a raffle
ticket**

more details to follow

please contact

Lisa Pearson 01242 862538 or

Helen King 01242 862505

Simple Holy Communion

We will be offering a simple
Holy Communion service
On the 4th Thursday of the
Month
2pm at St Paul's church,
Shurdington

Everyone is welcome



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Holy Trinity, Badgeworth
St Paul's, Shurdington
St Mary's, Witcombe with Bentham

Vicar:
Rev'd Susan Cooke,
Mobile: 07510227854
Email: revsusancooke@gmail.com

Assistant Curate:
Rev'd Daniel Newman,
Mobile: 07928299244
Email: rev.daniel.newman@gmail.com

GREENWAY ECO-WEEK 2026

This year, Eco-Week starts on Sunday 27th September, with a launch at our 4th Sunday service at St Paul's Church Shurdington at 10.30am.

In church our theme is "The Environment and the Five Marks of Mission", but you can do whatever you like to help our planet. You are invited to join in. Do anything "eco" and let others know what you're doing. Invite others to join in too. This is open to individuals, churches, families, schools, businesses, clubs – in other words, **anyone** who would like to do something special for our environment and share their story.

If you're interested in our church theme, these are **The Five Marks of Mission**, with a bible quote for each one, put together by John Hughes (Diocesan Environmental Officer, Manchester) and Ruth Newton (Area Champion, Ripon South):

1. To **proclaim** the Good News of the Kingdom

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

2. To teach, baptise and **nurture** new believers

"If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water." John 4:10

3. To respond to human need by **loving** service

"He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring

on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him"
Luke 10:34

4. To **transform** unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation

"For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things" Colossians 1:19,20

5. To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and **renew** the life of the earth

"Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures of every kind on the earth... This is the sign of the covenant I have established between me and all life on the earth" Genesis 9:16,17

Why not come along to the launch service on 27th September to hear more about it? *If you can't come or would prefer not to, please let us know what your special Eco action is – email a photo or a description to revsusancooke@gmail.com*

Find Eco-Week on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/ecoweekgreenway>

And why not take a look at Greenway Churches page too:
<https://www.facebook.com/greenwaychurches>.

BEING ECO CHURCH – The Season of Creation

Living Water

The international, ecumenical theme for this year's Season of Creation is Living Water, based on Ezekiel 47:1-12.

Creationtide, now more commonly known as the Season of Creation, is a concept introduced by the late Ecumenical Patriarch, Demetrios I, 1989.

Since then, September 1 (chosen because it is first day of the Orthodox ecclesiastical year) has been adopted as the start of Creationtide. This is the season, running to St Francis' Day on October 4, when churches and congregations are called to pay special attention to the responsibility of humanity for the Earth and for all that lives upon it. Its start and end dates reflect that it is a shared idea between Western and Eastern Christianity.

Churches Together in Britain and Ireland adopted the concept in 2008. In 2016, Pope Francis declared 1 September an annual World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation.

During this period of the church calendar, many churches celebrate Harvest, thanking God for his provision through the land and the food that it produces.

Water is Life

This extract, from a longer article in 2022 by A Rocha, a Christian conservation organisation working towards the protection and restoration of the natural world, highlights water's importance.

'Water is life' seems the best way to sum up what water means to humans and other creatures. Water makes up 70-90% of all living cells. We are born in water, we drink it, wash in it, use it for transport, irrigation, recreation, food



gathering and hydro-electric power. Water has a central place in all of the world's major religions (in the Bible there are over 500 references to water – more than to worship or prayer!). Maori, the indigenous people of Aotearoa / New Zealand, introduce themselves by naming the river with which they identify. Freshwater ecosystems cover only 1% of the earth's surface but are home to 12% of all animal species.

Over the last century, human demand for fresh water has grown at double the rate of population growth. It's predicted that two-thirds of the world's population would have experienced water stress by 2025. It's not surprising, then, that freshwater ecosystems are the most endangered on the planet. In the IUCN Red List, 34% of freshwater species are threatened – more than any other group. But attitudes to aquatic ecosystems are changing.

Thirty years ago, town planners typically engineered urban streams as drains. These days, increasingly, urban streams are being restored as habitats and public assets. In New Zealand, land owners and 'stream care' groups are planting hundreds of kilometres of riverbanks with native plants.

What can we do?

Our recent summer of drought has highlighted how precious water is to us, and made us review how we use water. Many of the small water saving measures we used this summer could be taken forward as routine.

Could we set up a water butt (or add an extra one) to store rainwater for use in the garden?

Do we need to use fresh drinking water to rinse out our recycling when used washing up water would do?

Could we fill our baths a little shallower or run our showers for a shorter time, not just when water is obviously scarce?

Could you turn off the tap while you brush your teeth?

More ideas at www.letssavewater.com/

<https://www.kingfisher.com/media/news/2023/seven-regions-in-england-will-face-severe-water-stress-by-2030-a>

MEMORIES 3 - YEAR 2000

Year 2000 - not so long ago, just about a quarter of a century! Have things changed that much since then? Well, yes, some things - we now have electric cars, more social media than we can cope with, AI, conflicts around the world, and, of course, potholes.

Millennium Bug.

Back in 2000 we were worrying about the Millennium Bug and its impact on Y2K (year 2000). In late 1999 HMG and business were all desperate to ensure computers (and our lives) didn't all grind to a halt on day 1 of the new era. Y2K was commonly used to refer to a widespread computer programming shortcut where many programs represented 4 digit years with only the final 2 digits, making year 2000 indistinguishable from year 1900. Experts feared the change would wreak havoc on computer systems affecting everything from airline reservations to financial databases to banking to power plants to government systems. While there was a widespread outcry about the potential implications of this change, all passed mainly without a hitch or whimper and is now largely forgotten.

Music, Fashion, World Items.

What else marked out Y2K? Well, grunge music, Y2K fashion with ripped acid washed jeans, cargo pants, cropped tops, vibrant colours, eclectic patterns, bayonetta glasses etc. Though invented / patented shortly before, 3 things only became commercially available in 2000 - Bluetooth, camera phones, USB flash drive.

The Euro was introduced as the single European currency in 2000; the Millennium Dome was officially opened by the Queen;

Playstation2 was launched; the first resident crew arrived at the International Space Station.

The top Christmas song for 2000 was “Can We Fix It - Bob The Builder”. It was at No: 1 for 3 weeks !! Now that was a song !!!

Housing. Life Expectancy. Global Warming.

House prices were somewhat lower in 2000 for example, Horseshoe Cottage, Bourton-on-the Hill, Gloucestershire, a renovated Cotswold stone house, 4 beds, 2 baths etc on the market for £169,500 !! However, the average annual earning in 2000 was only £18,848 and mortgage interest rates ranged between 5.75% and 7.13%. Interesting!

According to “The Week” magazine of January 2000, a British woman, Eva Morris, was, at age 114, declared the oldest person in the world by The Guinness Book of Records. She credited her longevity to a daily portion of boiled onions and a tot of whisky (keep drinking folks). How many of you recall that in 2000 we were warned about the biggest ever hole in the ozone layer. Scientists predicted that more than half the ozone layer, which blocks ultraviolet rays that cause skin cancer, would disappear that year. Indeed, the largest historical extent of the ozone layer occurred in September 2000, and, though there has been some reduction since then, the hole still exists.

There was also a warning about Global Warming melting Europe’s permafrost and threatening an environmental catastrophe in the Alps. No change there then.

NHS.

And just to prove that other things change little, “The Week” magazine of May 2000 highlighted that one of the biggest political concerns was marked by a continuing crisis in the NHS - lack of investment, increased hospital waiting lists, too many demands by people over 65, poor organisation, bureaucratic obsession with outputs and targets. There was also comment that people’s expectations of what they should get for “free” on the NHS far exceeded the growth in available funding. Although Prime Minister Tony Blair dismissed such “passing frenzies” the bad publicity flowed on. Are today’s journalists just copying year 2000’s headlines ?!!

Certain People.

*Ah yes - year 2000, wasn’t life exciting, or was it? Well, **Putin** won the Presidential election in March 2000; **Kim Jong Un** was a teenager attending a state school in Switzerland under the false name of Pak-Un; **Trump**, then a New York City real estate developer, was considering a potential run for president on the Reform Party ticket (yes, they had one !) and although he ran in 2 primaries, he withdrew from the race shortly after; **Xi Jinping** was governor of Fujian province and on his way up in the Chinese Communist Party. Wonder where they will be in another 5-10 years???*

And in the UK? Tony Blair was Prime Minister in 2000. When Blair became Prime Minister in 1997 at age 43, he was the youngest person to hold the post in nearly 200 years.

Any other year 2000 memories (or other years)? Write in and let The Editor know he is always looking for magazine articles

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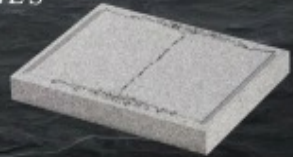
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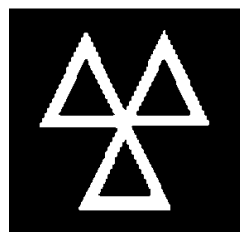
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