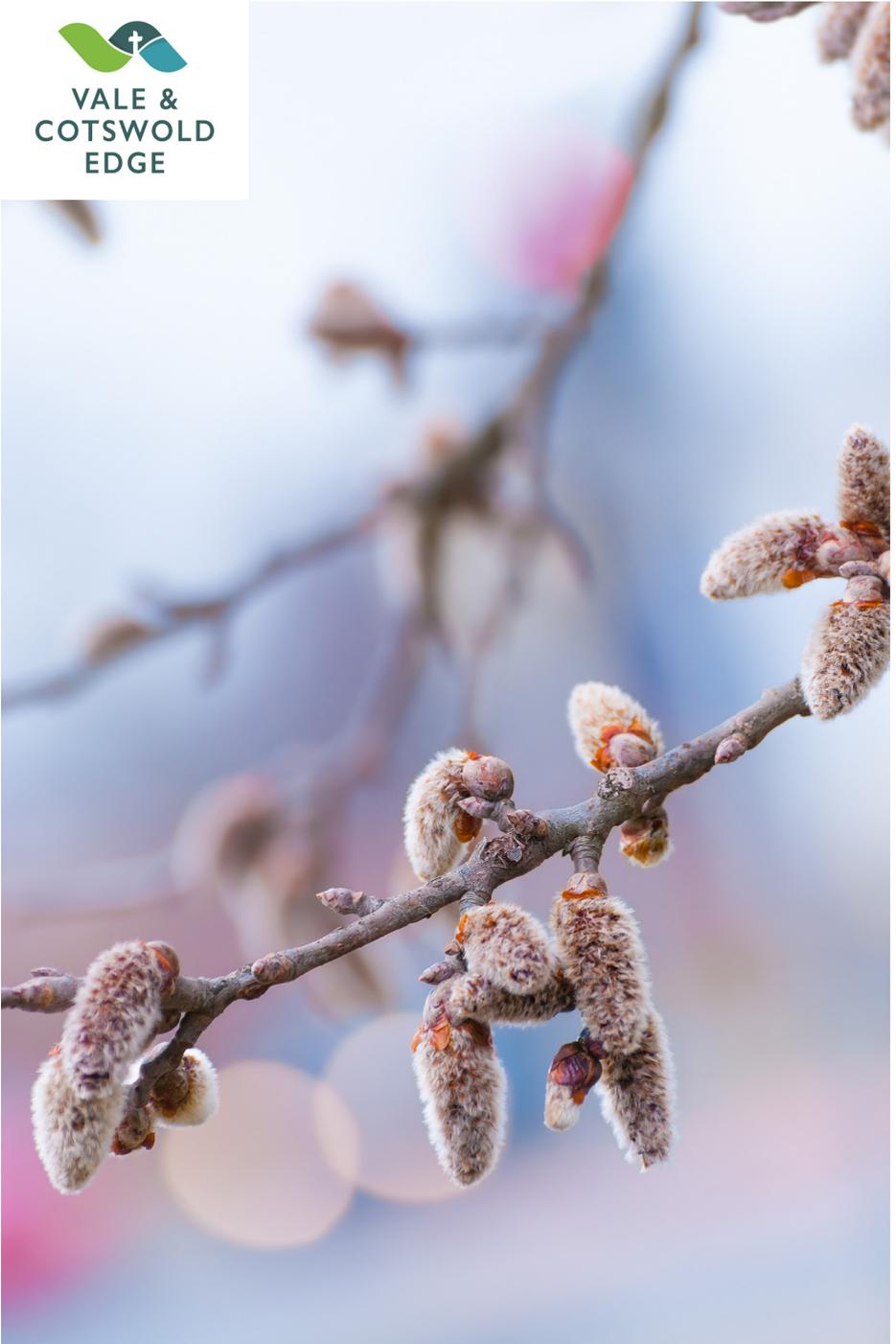




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*Parish Magazine February 2021*

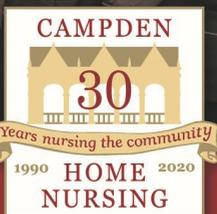
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# The Church Magazine

## Editorial

Please note that the Church Magazine has taken on its own contact details

Any publication or notices to reach the editor by the 8th of each month for the following month's issue

The editors reserve the right to edit any submissions and make corrections, omit material, or do minor reorganisation as required to achieve a reasonably consistent look and feel, to any submitted work

We would be delighted to receive photos of weddings and baptisms

[magazine@stjameschurchcampden.co.uk](mailto:magazine@stjameschurchcampden.co.uk)

## Subscriptions

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## Thanks

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# Pastoral letter

## **WHEN IS SPRING SPRUNG? TO LIVE IS TO GROW AND TO FLOURISH**



There is a philosophic puzzle, called the Sorites paradox, which wonders how many grains of sand are required to distinguish a heap of sand from a pile of individual sand grains. Logic suggests that if individual grains are added one by one there must be a precise point when the individual grains suddenly become a heap of sand. Asking the question when has spring begun or arrived is a similar sort of question.

On our daily exercise trips outside the house we can delight in noticing the signs of spring; the first snowdrops, the first daffodils. Bulbs are emerging from the soil. The birds' plumage is becoming brighter. At this time of year and over the next couple of months the changes come quick and fast. These first changes are prescient of the things to come. They remind us better times are coming. The days are getting longer, the sun is getting stronger, slowly surely spring is coming and nothing can stop it.

One day, this lockdown and this dreadful epidemic will be past. The longing for the end of lockdown and the pandemic is not dissimilar to the desire we have for Jesus' return, which we reflect on during Advent. In Advent we look forward to Jesus' return and the justice, mercy and peace he will bring. This promise can comfort us; despite what we experience in the present we have a hope for the future.

During Epiphany we ponder what God becoming flesh means for us and the world. We discover that our extraordinary God transforms ordinary lives. We seek to live out our 'Everyday Faith,' as we live lives shaped by our hope for the future.

In Lent (which starts on the 17th February) we open ourselves to the work of the Holy Spirit through discipline, study, prayer and sacrificial giving. We invite him to shape us and form us. We earnestly aspire that we would draw closer to Christ, that we would become more Christ-like because of the hope we hold. Our response to Jesus is not static; to grow and to flourish are marks of spiritual health.

The seasons delightfully repeat their cycle throughout the years but the good news of Jesus is that this is not true for us. We are travelling towards a time when we shall know God completely. Not in a mirror darkly but face to face (cf 1 Corinthians 13: 12). A few words from Morning Prayer in Advent,

"As we look for your coming this day,  
open our eyes to behold your presence  
and strengthen our hands to do your will  
that the world may rejoice (and sing your praise).

These words are appropriate for spring as we see and notice the change of the seasons. Slowly, day by day spring is emerging in the fields and gardens all around us. We can let this time act as a reminder that we are promised that things will get better. A time is coming when God will dwell with his people, when there will be no more mourning, crying and pain (cf Revelation 21: 3 and 4). How do we welcome Jesus into our homes, families and community? How do we live out our faith in the everyday, in the ordinary things of life?

This month and this spring may we notice God all around us;  
may our faith impact the choices we make this day and month;  
may our lives echo the silent music of creation's praise.

**Every blessing**  
**Revd Craig**

## COMMUNITY

### Pastoral Care

Since the days of the early church, church communities have cared for and supported its members and the community it serves. Thankfully many people support the clergy in this by visiting and supporting others. In Campden a small team has been formed to help Revd. Craig. The main role is coordinating pastoral care and directing Craig towards people who need visiting, also undertaking visits themselves, taking home communion, meals or other things that are needed.

The team is headed by our Reader, Bridget Wade and includes our churchwardens Naomi Morrey and Sarah Roberts as well as Jopey Eckersley-Hope, Revd Jay Niblett and Sally Dymott. If you are able to cook the occasional meal and would like to be added to our list please contact Ros Bishop.

### Flower Guild

If you would like to be part of the Flower Guild please do get in touch with the administrator - on 01386 841927. If you wish to make a donation to our Flower Fund please send a cheque to the Church Office payable to 'The PCC of Campden', together with a note of the name should you wish this to be in memory of a loved one.

## PARISH REGISTERS

### FUNERALS

St Lawrence's Church, Mickleton

Friday 8 January

Joan Bartlett

Monday 11 January

Peter Page

St Michael & All Angels Church, Broad Campden

Friday 22 January

Christine Attree

Oakley Wood Crematorium, Cheltenham

Wednesday 30 December

Margaret Devereaux

Vale Crematorium, Fladbury

Friday 22 January

Robert Montgomery

We remember Margaret Randall, who died on Wednesday 9th December, formerly of Marfurlong Farm, Ebrington, who will be fondly remembered by many in Ebrington and further afield, not just among the farming community, but by her many friends, and the groups she supported enthusiastically over all the years she lived in Ebrington.

## STAY IN TOUCH

Revd Craig and his team are posting regular videos of reflections and prayers on our church websites and social media. The links are below if you would like to view them:

***[stjameschurchcampden.co.uk/videosandreflections.htm](https://stjameschurchcampden.co.uk/videosandreflections.htm)***

Bedtime church is now pre-recorded please email Amy for the link  
***[youthworker@stjameschurchcampden.co.uk](mailto:youthworker@stjameschurchcampden.co.uk)***

Weekly round up sermons from the Diocese of Gloucester  
***<https://www.gloucester.anglican.org/2020/sermons-podcasts-and-gospel-readings-communications-during-lockdown/>***

***Digital Church every Sunday at 9.30am***

***Log-on details <https://www.vace.church/digital-church>***

Alternatively, you can contact the church office:

***[admin@stjameschurchcampden.co.uk](mailto:admin@stjameschurchcampden.co.uk)***

## CATCHING UP WITH REVD SHEILA ROSENTHAL

This is a picture of the Great Conjunction with a superimposed silhouette the magi following the star.



What we have been able to see with such clarity and closeness is something that wasn't seen for hundreds of years.

The last time it appeared so close and so bright was 1623 and before that 1226 (and I don't mean lunch time!). Jupiter and Saturn aligned to make a bright and visible phenomenon in the skies above us.

Nature in and of itself can say much about God and us. The Grand Conjunction tells us that we see something that wasn't seen for generations but because it was not seen, it was not believed. The star of Bethlehem became a figment of imagination for many scholars and cynics, telling us that Matthew was making it up. But old narratives are not all make-believe though they can be 'help-believe' because they can show us something of God that goes beyond our own understanding of how things can happen.

At theology college I remember reading a theologian who said that if things were physically impossible they couldn't have happened, full stop. He was talking about miracles and other things, like the star of Bethlehem. But this chap was setting himself up as the judge not only of possibilities but also of events way beyond his knowledge. Because he did not know something, he asserted that it couldn't be real, true or possible. This is incredibly arrogant though he probably saw it as incredibly rational. But reason and knowledge are not matters of our small realm of knowledge but of what is discoverable, knowable, discernible and beyond our intelligence to fathom. It took me ages to realize that God was more intelligent than me and I'm not alone in this! How many of us judge God by our own understanding rather than acknowledging that we may not be the brightest intellect on the planet?! From our vantage point of 2021 we know more about the past than those who lived then did.

Matthew was reporting something that had been seen and just because it may not fit into our experience or knowledge, it doesn't mean it didn't happen. This is not to say accept everything at face value, it is to say walk humbly with your God and know your finitude.

But the planets' alignment also tells us something about human relationships. For the planets didn't become one star but shared each other's orbit for a while. In time – that is, for a period of days – they were together, but in space they were still individual entities, physically separate. In our own lives we occupy time and space and others share that it with us. We shine the better for the presence of others but we remain ourselves but remembering all the time that the moon and stars are bright because they shine not of themselves but of the reflected sun. So it is with church and life in general, we must be ourselves and find our course while sharing time and space. Sharing a trajectory, if you like, is our function as humans, to be individuals yet within a body of others, the communities in which we live. The very word 'individual' means one that cannot be divided - yet we can share. We move on, we change, we wax and wane and others join and leave, here for a season.



I live near a mountain with forests and fantastic views over Trondheim fjord. We like to explore the paths and, looking at maps and Google earth, I knew in my head and heart there was a path through the forest that linked 2 other paths well known to me. One day I set out with the dogs to find it and on the way I met a local neighbour who had lived here for 60 years. I told him what I was intending to do and he warned me that there was no way through the forest, I must keep left at every turn to get back safely.

I am reluctant here to not take advice so I decided to go along the track to the hut at its end and then turn back if the path I sought wasn't obvious. As I approached the hut I saw another track with footprints in the snow heading in the direction I wanted. I took the path, confident that at least one other had gone that way before me. Eventually, by climbing and looking and checking the map and glimpsing the fjord in the distance, I knew I was going right and I found the path that joined up the others 2. The walk back down the mountain was a delight, buoyed up by having found what I was looking for. Instinct, experience, knowledge and a little curiosity tempered with caution, took me to where I wanted to go.

Had I followed the farmer's advice I would never have found the new way. But he believed that his experience was all there was and so he had never set out to find the new path. Because he believed – knew, so he thought – it didn't exist he didn't bother to seek it nor could he tell me of it either. His vision was curtailed by his experience. But the path was there and we have walked it since. This is not advice to play fast and loose with mountains but to be wary of those who say something cannot be done or can only be done in the way it has always been done, that a new way doesn't exist, be it worship or study or life or footpaths. We do find new ways but how much are some missing because they can't or won't risk/try new things? Wheels were new once...

The star of Bethlehem, seen when God was a boy, we too have seen, it is not a figment of Matthew's imagination and is not to be dismissed by those who think they know. The wise sought it then and found a way to follow both their knowledge and their instinct – and to do it in the dark when stars can only be seen. In the year ahead we may have many things to decide and face up to, many darkneses to penetrate and endure. Which star we follow, which Lord we seek to worship and bring our gifts to, is a choice we make every day. But to find a star that leads us to Christ, to be alongside fellow travellers, albeit only for a while, even to travel alone sometimes, is to be in the company of the wise.

*Lord God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils and joys as yet unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*



## WALK TO BETHLEHEM

It all began with a chat with my sister Margot who lives in Fradley, Staffordshire. In a year that brought forth many challenges and new opportunities one of her friends suggested they walk to Bethlehem at the start of Advent. At a time when they could not share their faith in traditional Christmas-time fashion it was their way to bring the message of Jesus's birth back home. What a wonderful idea, would they mind if we adopted the same idea here in Ebrington?

We put out the call for people to join us either walking, running or cycling to cover the 3,123 miles from Ebrington to Bethlehem. Over 40 people participated either alone, in pairs, with children, with dogs, with friends (socially distanced of course) chatting, sharing their lives, smiles and nods with strangers have grown into full blown chats to new friends, thus each walk taking longer. The sense of achievement we felt personally but also pride in those who are less able and had walked with us is immense; together we are stronger.

Beautiful countryside, bird song, discovering new areas not previously explored while becoming physically fitter and knowing that each mile walked raised some much needed funds.



Everyone was so enjoying the walking that in the 7 weeks we covered 6,246 miles going to Bethlehem and back arriving in Ebrington in time for Christmas day, unlike some of the lorry drivers held up in Kent.

The gift of giving, as in that act we receive so much ourselves. With sponsorship and the generosity of so many people we raised over

£2,650 which has been shared between our church and the local North Cotswold Foodbank.

Poverty is often hidden in rural areas and the number of families using food banks has risen further this year because of losses of household income due to the impact of coronavirus.

Covid has also had a very significant impact on the income of our church, without services, weddings and regular fund-raising events income is considerably down meaning an unavoidable deficit.

The church has served the village for hundred of years, it has historical importance as a building, memories shared by the community of all life events as well as a focus for faith and we want to ensure it continues to serve future generations.



The ongoing legacy of our walk is that of friendships, fitness and wellbeing, awareness of the beauty in everyday if you look and a commitment to remember and support those that need us. The great news is we can all do it for whatever cause, charity or religious pilgrimage ..... it is just one step at a time.

*Jean Stanley*

## THANK YOU FROM THE FOODBANK

*“The North Cotswold Foodbank is getting busier each year and we have been able to help feed many local families who unfortunately have found themselves in need.*

*The majority of our clients are low-income, working families and they are extremely grateful that others consider them at a very difficult time. Since the Coronavirus pandemic we have seen a dramatic surge in the number of people struggling and this has continued in the run up to Christmas.*

*Your donation helps us to ensure that we can help with the provision of food and other essentials such as toiletries, household cleaning supplies and nappies.*

*Cash donations also help us to provide fresh fruit & vegetables, meat and bread which we purchase from local businesses.”*

## DREAMING MINCE PIES & CHRISTMAS PUDDINGS!

A big thank you to everyone who supported the Ebrington Bakers by buying their Christmas food goodies to help support church funds, a massive £1220.77p was raised.

When Jean Stanley (Stan) and Jill Coombe realised that the Christmas Fayre could not happen because of covid , they decided to offer a home delivery service for the Christmas food goodies that would normally be sold at the Fayre.



After a few phone calls to ask for support from Daphne, Sheila, Jean, Joanna, Belinda, Beryl, Penny, and Jane. Mixers were buzzing, cutters cutting, ovens blasting, cellophane bags crinkling, bows tied and like magic a total of 1335 items were ready to distribute. A big thank you to all of the bakers who gave their time and the ingredients freely, it could not have happened without you.

Once again in typical Ebrington fashion people came together to create an amazingly positive result. Does anyone have a good hot cross bun recipe?

*Simon Coombe*

## ST THOMAS MORN AT EBRINGTON 2020

Despite the social distancing restrictions which prevented our normal Bellringing early on St Thomas Morn, with the usual team of Ringers from local Towers, we managed to maintain this very local old tradition by ringing our Victorian Ellacombe apparatus which enables just one person to chime all six bells.

Rather than the normal 5:45 am start, finishing at 7:00 am followed by the customary bellringers breakfast courtesy of Stan and Margot at The Grove; the bells rang out this time from around 7:15 am, and were heard across the village in the still morning air. The usual Band of Bellringers from Ebrington, Shipston, Brailes, Longborough and as far away as Guiting Power look forward to resuming their normal service on 21st December 2021.

A clip of the Ellacombe apparatus being rung for St Thomas Morn 2020 can be found here:-

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LLbjh1pkn3w&feature=youtu.be>

*Dear Peter (Banton)*

*Just to say thank you so much for laying on the bells once again. It was a lovely festive moment around the tree under the Oaks watching the tractors in all their finery. Everyone so enjoyed hearing the bells.*

*Thank you. Best wishes*

*Dinah Lammiman & Judith Styles*

## EBRINGTON ROUND UP

Would we, could we .....as Christmas drew nearer and with all the different restrictions would we be able to hold our Christmas services?

No lessons and carols this year but thank you to everyone who took part in the two services telling the Christmas story through bible readings, poems and song.

How special it was hearing live music, Tess, Chrissie and Jay singing their solo songs accompanied by Dinah on the piano, Chris on the organ and Jay on the guitar. Thank you Emmy and Isla too for their reading: it can be quite daunting reading in church for the first time. Both services raised our spirits during this difficult time.

Even with having to follow the risk assessment rules the church looked lovely, the font and windows full of foliage and berries, dried seed heads, grasses, tree branches and baubles with Christmas lights and battery candles glimmering everywhere.

Thank you Peter and Amanda for donating our tree, Ebrington Gardening Club for decorating it and individual members of the congregation for doing all the other decorations and setting up our nativity.

We thank Dinah Lammiman for her instigation of 'Light up Ebrington' inviting people to the different outside events to run over three Thursdays in December starting on 6th with turning on your own garden lights at 6pm. It was lovely walking round the village at night seeing all the different light displays.

The following Thursday it was 'Dogs with Lights' walking through the village with the dogs having a variety of coloured collars and leads, some were flashing, getting in to the spirit some of the owners wore lights and decorations too. Everyone headed to the village centre at the 'Three Oaks' where the Christmas tree lights were turned on at 6pm. The tree had been donated by Peter and Amanda Drinkwater and decorated by the Ebrington Gardening Club.

On the last Thursday there was a tractor parade through the village, there were at least ten tractors festooned with lights and tinsel, Father Christmas was seen driving some of the tractors. A few tractors pulled decorated trailers filled with family members waving to everyone. Many villagers were standing in their gardens waving and shouting 'Merry Christmas' as they drove by.

There was one special stop before finishing at the 'Three Oaks' and that was outside the home of Ken and Margaret Smith. It was their daughter Melanie's birthday that day and a few days later it was going to be Margaret's 80th birthday, so everyone sang 'happy birthday'

Thank you Mr and Mrs Nours of Charingworth for supplying the food and Adam the chef at the Ebrington Arms for doing the preparing and cooking of hot lunches throughout December, the last meal before Christmas being a turkey lunch for which Claire and Jim from the Ebrington Arms had donated the turkey.

A group of volunteers distributed the hot lunches throughout the village to people shielding or living on their own. All meals were most welcome and thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. Thank you to everyone who took part, in these difficult times with restrictions often changing it gave everyone some joy, lifting spirits and putting smiles on peoples faces.

Sadly due to the Covid restrictions we will not be able to hold our usual Murder Mystery this month...but...hopefully we will rearrange it for a date in the summer..... so watch this space!

## HOPE

I thought about writing an article on hope, I think it's something we are all in desperate need of at the moment! We have been riding this rollercoaster for almost a year now and we need to have something to look forward to.

At the same time, I didn't want to give the impression that because I have faith, I am always hopeful. I am very blessed in that I am a "glass half full" type of person. Most of the time I am upbeat and optimistic, but I do have down days, I do have doubts.

I think that these are feelings that we all get and should acknowledge. Pretending that everything is ok all the time is just not real, trying to be and act like someone we are not doesn't work. However, we do not have to stay in that place, we are a resurrection people. So, I do look for the brightness, and I see, I see the days slowly drawing out, I see the patches of snowdrops, green shoots poking up through the dirt, new buds on trees. I have learned, over time, to look for the good.



Many years ago I found the verses in Philippians chapter 4, exhorting us to rejoice, going on to remind us to "think on whatever is good, true, noble, praiseworthy ". I have found this so helpful, it has become a habit, when things look dark, all is rubbish, I look for the thing that is praiseworthy, something to be grateful for, there is always something!

When we had snow, the views over the trees, fields and rooftops were stunning, and I stayed inside and kept warm. Sunrises and sunsets, on clear days fill the sky with amazing colour, glimpses of heaven. Cold, clear nights when the stars look touchable, I must learn more constellations, I love the names, Orion, Cassiopeia, the Pleiades, reminding me of myths and legends.

All of these, to me, echo God's love for me and for the world. The 'overwhelming, never ending, reckless love of God'. Love that has given us free choice. It is up to us to choose to look for that love in the world around us, and to share that love with one another.

So, I do have hope, hope that soon, once again, we can share, share in The Peace, share in Communion, be near to one another. And, as time goes by, to remember what we have, never taking it for granted, keeping our eyes on the prize. After all, spring is just around the corner!

*Naomi Morrey*



**“FABULOUS & REALLY, REALLY GOOD!”**

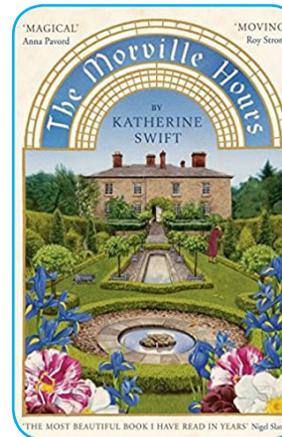
Dear Editor,

“ I want to thank whoever submitted the Christmas Pudding recipe for the Parish Mag in November. In my 77 years I have never made a Christmas Pudding before; for the family Christmases I have had every year with the exception of about 3 that I can remember, it has always been spent with family, parents and sisters, in our various homes and the pudding has always been provided by someone else. But with lockdown in November and not knowing if I was able to get together with any of the family this year, since the recipe looked so easy and I had all the ingredients in my store cupboard/fridge, I made one, without any thoughts of it working out. However, it was fabulous, light, soft and fruity – really, really good. So thank you to whoever’s recipe it was. A first for me, but not now the last!”

*Carol Jackson*

**BOOK REVIEW OF THE MONTH  
THE MORVILLE HOURS**

*by Katherine Swift*



Katherine Swift had been working as a rare books librarian in Dublin and Oxford when she and her husband, looking for a new home, discovered the Dower House to Morville Hall in Shropshire. This had been the site of an ancient Priory, but the only part of that that remained was the church with its 18thC bells and Victorian clock which still chimed the hours. In the time when there had still been a priory on the site, the chiming of the hours would have provided the backdrop to the monks’ days and the regime of prayers, psalms, hymns and readings which made up the cycle of their lives, the text

of which was contained in a breviary. A Books of Hours was a simpler version of this for the use of laypeople.

The garden at the Dower House was derelict but Katherine was determined to restore it, taking as a template the illustrations from a Book of Hours of the horticultural and agricultural tasks for the monks appropriate to each month. In this book she describes the development of the garden, its plants and planting and the research she undertook to ensure these were appropriate for the site. Into this too, she weaved a rich narrative of local characters and history, personal reminiscence and observation.

This may sound rather a mundane subject, but the result is far from that. This book is at once effortlessly readable, full of delightful detail and beautifully written while also recounting fascinating snippets of information and some profound reflections. It is a book “the most beautiful book I have read in years” according to Nigel Slater, that is comforting, calm and consoling. All rather necessary in present circumstances.

*Jennie Ayles*



### **A NEW YEAR, A NEW BEGINNING**

A new year is upon us, a new beginning a time to take stock and look at our hopes, dreams, and aspirations for the year ahead! Well kind of..... A new year? Yes! A new beginning? Yes! We seem to have the time to take stock, look and review our hopes, dreams, and aspirations. But why does it feel like we are living in a state of tedious repetition, one can only describe it as, ground hog day!

I have spoken to several of our families over the last couple of weeks and the struggle is the same. The sense of feeling trapped, isolated. The continuous demand of home schooling, whilst many try to juggle work, we are all trying to survive let alone ponder our hopes and dreams. This lockdown feels harder. Maybe we had hoped for it all to be over, or maybe we knew the reality of lockdown life? Either way it is tough! My heartfelt plea is, we are not alone in this, we do not have to pretend or push our feelings aside.

What we can do, what we MUST do is welcome God into those feelings. We can so often think that as Christians we have to act like everything is ok, we have it all together, to continuously be positive, to smile and we carry a sense of pretence, like a performance. "All is well we are Christians, and we know God has a plan", but the reality is sometimes in life all is not well, we hurt, we fear, and we certainly lack wisdom!

The truth is we live in a broken world, God knows it, so why do we sometimes forget it? The image of being outwardly serene when internally we are in knots jumps to mind! In knowing that we live in a world that is broken, where individuals are not perfect and yet despite all of that, we have a God that loves us, unconditionally. Accepting and understanding the magnitude of that truth makes us realise we are even more blessed than we could possibly know. There is a freedom, knowing that we are accepted as we are. Being Christ like means to take on the nature of Christ to desire more of him and in turn we let them become more like him. Yet we will never be him.

There is only one saviour. But our honesty and our openness to invite him into those days and times where life is a struggle, where life is tough, allows God to bring a peace that surpasses all understanding. He only requires us to take a step at a time, and by keeping him close your eyes begin to see the world in a different way. The anxious feeling you have when we see the pile of washing you can not even think of touching before the toys are all over the floor are put away. Become moments of gratitude. Thank you, God, that my children have wonderful toys that bring fun, creativity and excitement to their world. Thank you that I have clothes to dress my family in and so on.

It seems simple but why is it so hard to do at times? I was reminded this week in reading a wonderful book given by a friend that there is abundance in the simplicities of life. When we start to look at the things that once felt like shackles with eyes of gratitude our perspective changes, our circumstances might not but our response and outlook do! In knowing Christ our perspective changes, our eyes are opened to all we have in and through him. We count our blessings one day at a time! My desire for us all in this coming season is we set out time to pray. To tell God our hearts desires, tell him of those hopes and dreams we may have but feel we do not have time for. Tell him when the day feels like too much to bear, tell him the good and the bad, tell him your fears, your worries. He is a loving God who wants nothing more than to be welcomed into our lives every step of the way!

This term the value for St James and Ebrington Primary School is perseverance. What a value. For this season it is perfect!

I am reminded of the verse in Romans 5 3b-4 *“because we know that suffering produces perseverance, perseverance character and character hope”*

What a comforting truth, we can put our hope in Christ Jesus and in doing so, he will give us the strength to persevere.

### PRAYER - CHAT AND CATCH!

Chat and Catch is a form of prayer for children to try. It was once said by the founder of Parenting for Faith, Rachel Turner, that we so often teach children how to pray, sometimes even formats to say but we rarely allow or demonstrate how to wait on and listen to God’s response. This is a wonderful, relaxed way of encouraging children to do just that, to spend time chatting to God, telling him about their day, their likes, their dislikes, their favourite colour, their thoughts, and their worries and then allowing the space and time for them to hear God’s voice. They are encouraged to do it in their heads, it does not have to be out loud, so it is between them and God, but they are always welcomed to share anything they would like to. I remember once when I was doing chat and catch with some children, to my surprise, a little boy said, “God just told me he loved me, I told him I can feel lonely sometimes and he said he was there, and he loved me” As I heard this little boy tell me this with such conviction and excitement. I understood the importance of allowing children the space to hear God for themselves. I would encourage you to give it a go, with your children. God doesn’t need a perfect prayer formula he desires a relationship with each of us!

Please see on the next page this lovely little template to give your children a few starting points that Parenting for Faith have put together.

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Ask God what makes him laugh	Tell God three words that describe you best	Tell God something that makes you feel worried and why	Tell God what you'd buy if you had £10,000	Ask God what he liked creating most when he made the world	Show or tell God the best thing about being you	Tell God a word you find hard to spell	Ask God how he feels when he watches the news	Tell God who you like playing with and why	
Tell God about the last time you knew you were right	Ask God what he's been doing in the world today	Tell God the funniest joke you know	Tell God what your favourite TV programme is and why		Tell God something that makes your family special	Tell God about a time something started badly but ended well	Tell God your favourite song, or sing it to him	Ask God if there's anything he wished had never happened	
Tell God something you found out that you wish you didn't know	Tell God about the last time you hurt yourself	Tell God what makes you a good friend	<p><b>“Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.”</b></p> <p><b>Jeremiah 33:3</b></p>		Ask God what makes him happy	Ask God something you'd like to change about the world	Tell God about something that makes you feel loved	Tell God how you feel when you're on your own	
Ask God why he likes to spend time with you	Show or tell God something you're proud of	Tell God a rule you don't like and why			Tell God where you'd like to be living in 10 years time and why	Tell God about someone you're missing	Show or tell God about the last picture you drew	Ask God what he does when he rests	Draw or tell God what you think heaven looks like
Tell God a sound you like and why	Tell God how you feel about school	Tell or show God something you are thankful for	Tell God something people do that makes you feel uncomfortable	Tell God what pet you'd have if you could have any animal in the world	Tell God about a memory that makes you laugh	Tell God your favourite food	Tell God what age you'd like to be and why	Tell God something you've just learned	Ask God what makes him sad
Tell God what you like about church and why	Tell or show God where you'd like to travel to and why	Tell God when you were the coldest you've ever been							

## ENCOURAGING NEWS!!!

Christmas albeit different was still the season to be merry and thankful! Firstly, as the VaCE team we saw over 200 Christingle packs made up and handed out to families in our local communities! A huge thank you to everyone who helped with this, especially Sarah Roberts, Ailsa and of course Ros and Craig Bishop. If you have not seen it yet ..... there was also a QR code in the packs, linking families to a short video of Craig, Jay and myself demonstrating how to in fact make a Christingle. Well, let me just say I definitely drew the short straw as I became an exceptionally large life size Christingle. Which amused many a household. One of the children's mothers contacting me in absolute hysterical laughter saying her son stood there in utter shock and said "Is that really Amy? "

Secondly, with some hard work, risk assessments and determination. Jay, myself, and Sophia planned, orchestrated and edited a short Nativity film featuring all the children from all over the VaCE. It was a huge hit and brought so much joy and excitement to families over the Christmas break. You can still find it on the church's youtube channel so if you have not seen it yet please do give it a look! Thank you once again to everyone in front of and behind the screen, an amazing effort all round!

Thirdly, we are seeing the distribution of our family packs each month grow. As more and more families either reach out or come to the mind. They are a wonderful resource we have been able to drop at families' doors. Each month they are based around a particular theme and are full of activities, craft, recipes, and prayers. It is a snippet of Sunday school in a bag!

As we look to this new year and new season, we are continuing with youth group, younger youth, and bedtime church albeit via zoom. New ideas and ways of keeping our children and youth engaged are taking place and ideas for a potential Easter performance have begun!

Please do keep our families and team in your thoughts and prayers during this time and please do get in touch if you have a particular family on your heart or know of who you think would benefit from receiving a family pack or bedtime church links.

**Amy Todd, [youthworker@stjameschurchcampden.co.uk](mailto:youthworker@stjameschurchcampden.co.uk)**



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## COCKTAIL & MOCKTAIL OF THE MONTH

This year we are focusing on cocktails and mocktails. If you have a favourite let the editor know the recipe and it can feature in the magazine. [magazine@stjameschurchcampden.co.uk](mailto:magazine@stjameschurchcampden.co.uk)

### VALENTINES DAY LOVE MARTINI

#### INGREDIENTS

- 1/2 shot (0.75fl oz or 22ml) Malibu Rum
- 1/2 shot (0.75fl oz or 22ml) Peach Schnapps
- 1/2 shot (0.75fl oz or 22ml) Citron Vodka/Plain Vodka
- 3 shots (4.5fl oz or 132ml) Cranberry Juice
- 2 strawberries, for garnish
- A wedge of lime (optional)
- Sugar to rim the glass (optional)



#### INSTRUCTIONS

- You can rim your martini glass with sugar (if you want)- just use a lime/lemon wedge along the rim of the glass to get it wet and dip the glass in a plate with sugar.
- Gently mix the Malibu Rum, Peach Schnapps, Vodka and Cranberry Juice together in a shaker and pour it into the prepared glass.
- Garnish your love martini with a couple of strawberry slices on the rim!

### SPARKLING CRANBERRY KOMBUCHA MOCKTAIL

- 1 bottle of kombucha of choice or ginger beer or ginger soda
- 1/4 cup of cranberry juice
- Fresh cranberries, rosemary sprigs, and thinly sliced ginger for garnish
- Fill a glass with ice
- Mix the kombucha (or ginger beer/soda) and cranberry juice in a shaker and pour into the glass
- Add the garnish and enjoy!

## ADVENT TO EPIPHANY: A VIRTUAL MUSICAL EXPERIENCE

I'm sure I'm not alone in finding that one of the most frustrating effects of the restrictions on communal worship during Covid-19 is the prohibition on hymn-singing, and never more so that over Advent, Christmas and Epiphany when there are so many wonderful carols to revel in. So more than usual during the last couple of months I have indulged myself in the uplifting services online.

What King's College, Cambridge, is to Christmas lessons and carols, so St John's College, Cambridge, is to Advent readings and carols. In recent years, their service has been broadcast on Radio 3 on Advent Sunday and they have recorded two lovely albums for the Signum label. This time there was the usual eclectic mix of the old and the new, the familiar and the discovery, but I confess that on this occasion I was more moved by the service from Merton College, Oxford, which was streamed on YouTube.



Under the inspired and inspiring directorship of Benjamin Nicholas, Merton's choir has rapidly advanced to become one of the foremost college choirs in the country, much in demand for concerts and recordings. I knew Benjie from his days at Tewkesbury Abbey where he did wonders with the choir, before moving to Merton and continuing his upward trajectory. He has made a number of recordings with both choirs for the Delphian label, and with Merton I would particularly commend "O Holy Night: A Merton Christmas" and "Advent at Merton". Their streamed service was particularly uplifting, including two of my favourite and lesser-known Advent carols, "Come, thou Redeemer of the Earth" and "Hark, what a sound, and too divine for hearing" as well as the usual suspects, and a sublime rendition of the Magnificat from the Collegium Regale of Herbert Howells. A truly magical occasion.

And so to Christmas. Merton streamed a Christmas carol service, but somehow for me this did not quite achieve the "wow" factor, where

as the service from King's College, Cambridge, most certainly did. For many people, Christmas doesn't really begin until Carols from King's is broadcast on BBC TV on Christmas Eve and repeated on Christmas Day. This year, there was a new man in charge, Daniel Hyde. He succeeded Sir Stephen Cleobury who had been music director at King's for 37 years until his retirement in 2019. He died in November 2019, having previously recorded the Carols from King's service for that year. Daniel had done great things at St Thomas' Church, Fifth Avenue, New York City, and before that he had been a protégé of our very own Richard Stephens. The music was up to the choir's usual high standards, indeed I thought that the sound from the boys was particularly beautiful, and there were some stunning new descants for the most popular carols.

What I particularly enjoyed were two carols unfamiliar to me, "How do you capture the wind on the water?" with words and music by John Rutter, and "Thou who was rich beyond all splendour" sung to an old French carol melody more familiar in the arrangement by Sir David Willcocks as "Quelle est cette odeur agreable?".



Then there were the readings which were also new to me and rather lovely: a new Bidding Prayer read by the Dean, a poem by J C Scharl which imagines the moment just before Mary is addressed by the Angel Gabriel, a poem by Toni Morrison which interprets the wonder of the birth of Christ, and before the final Blessing a poem by Howard Thurman, "When the song of the angels is stilled....". Whenever the next carol service takes place at St Michael's in Broad Campden, I will do my best to ensure that they are included!

Digressing briefly from college choirs, of the many fine British vocal consorts that are fighting for survival at the moment and are doing sterling work online, I would particularly commend the Gesualdo Six, which were founded in Cambridge in 2014 and perform a wide range of music from across the centuries.

They have already issued a lovely Christmas album on the Hyperion label and I hope they will be able to record their Epiphany programme. Their seamless, integrated sound is matchless, and the beauty of their rendition of "Es ist ein ros entsprungen" (literally "It is a rose sprung up" or "A Spotless Rose", and yes, you will recognise the music by Michael Praetorius) is heart-stopping.

And finally to Epiphany. There are some wonderful choices online, including from Hereford and Worcester Cathedrals; St John's, Cambridge, will be streaming their service later in January. I always try and go to the Epiphany carol service at Tewkesbury Abbey which is a magnificent occasion: the Bishop is present, the clergy are robed in all their finery, there are processions galore, the air is heady with incense, the abbey is magically lit with candles in the highest reaches, the music is glorious – and it's freezing cold! But nobody cares, the place is packed to the rafters. But sadly no such service this year.

On the day itself, I contented myself with a pre-recorded Choral Evensong service from Ely Cathedral on Radio 3. What particularly caught my attention was the first lesson, a reading from Baruch, 4 v36 - 5 v9. I had never heard it before, but it certainly made an impression on me, it was grand and majestic, like something from Isaiah. I have since had a short history lesson from Craig on the Apocrypha! Another reading that I hope will find its way into the next Carol service at St Michael's! The choir also sang one of my favourite Epiphany carols, "From the Eastern Mountains" (tying in nicely with the Baruch reading), but unfortunately to the King's Weston tune rather than my preferred Evelyngs, which is more familiar to us from the hymn "At the name of Jesus".

And so the season of carol singing draws to a close. I am sure that we all hope and pray that by the end of this year we will be able to do the singing ourselves, and perhaps we will appreciate the wonderful tunes and words even more and sing them with even greater gusto. But what would we have done without the internet and streaming during 2020?

## GOING GREEN IN THE VESTRY

Some of you may have noticed at St James' Church that we have a new hand water heater in the vestry cloakroom. The heater is now hands-free and environmentally friendly as it only heats water when required.

To operate all you need to do is wave your hand in front of the blue sensor on the front of the heater and warmed water will automatically flow for about 30 seconds before it turns off. A temperature controller means it is completely safe for children and the timer ensures plenty of time for washing hands without wasting water.

***Don't forget the Covid-19 instructions to wash your hands with soap and water for 20 seconds (say the Lord's Prayer).***

## CLEARER SOUNDS FOR ST JAMES' CHURCH

A few years ago, the sound system at St James' was upgraded by the installation of new speakers in the hope of improving the quality of sound. Although these were high specification speakers, we still have sound issues. The current system produces the volume and spread of sound required but the quality and ability to control that sound is limited.

Jay has spent some time with our organist Richard, key church members and a sound consultant to consider the issues of our current sound system. It has been deduced that a number of relatively low-cost upgrades can be made to significantly improve the quality and control of sound and the general usability of the system.

- All the existing sound equipment, together with some new equipment, will be moved to a purpose built cabinet located behind the organ.
- A new sound desk will enable each microphone to have individual control. In addition, it will be able to run sound from CDs/Laptops/MP3s without the need for the organ to be on.

- New floor mounted sub-woofer speakers will be installed to improve the quality of sound by giving the system a wider frequency response.
- The current front facing speakers, which are primarily for speech, will be repositioned 1m lower to provide a better spread of sound, particularly for the front and main body of the nave.
- The upgraded system will also allow musical instruments to be amplified without the need to operate the organ.

It is hoped that the sound system upgrades will be completed in the next couple of months, and although the system will mainly be controlled by Richard, there will be training for those who want to be involved in operating the system.

*Nigel Boyce*

## NATIVITY SCENES FROM ST LAWRENCE'S CHURCH MICKLETON



Revd Craig Bishop, Revd Jay Niblett and Churchwardens Paul Titmus and Janet Barlow



## PRAYERS THROUGHOUT FEBRUARY

We pray for all those working to keep us safe from the coronavirus, especially those who work in the NHS and the care sector.

**Tuesday 2nd**, Candlemas, we give thanks the old and young who are part of our community

**Thursday 4th**, World Cancer Day, we pray for those living with cancer and for the medics who support them

**Saturday 6th**, we pray for the Diocesan Synod which meets this morning

**Sunday 7th**, Everyday Faith, where and how do we encounter God as we go about our lives. Where do we notice God's presence today?

**Thursday 11th**, we pray for the Bishop's Council which meets this evening

**Friday 12th**, Chinese New Year, we give thanks for the people and nation of China

**Sunday 14th**, Valentine's Day, we give thanks for those whom we love and those who love us

**Monday 15th**, the beginning of half-term, we pray for families with children learning at home

**Tuesday 16th**, Shrove Tuesday, we pray that we would use Lent wisely

**Wednesday 17th**, Ash Wednesday, we ask that we would know more of God this Lent

**Monday 22nd**, the start of the new term, we pray for children returning to school, for teachers, governors and all involved in education

**Tuesday 23rd**, pray for the Fairtrade movement that, people be paid fairly for the crops and goods they produce

## ANSWERS FOR DECEMBER SUDOKU

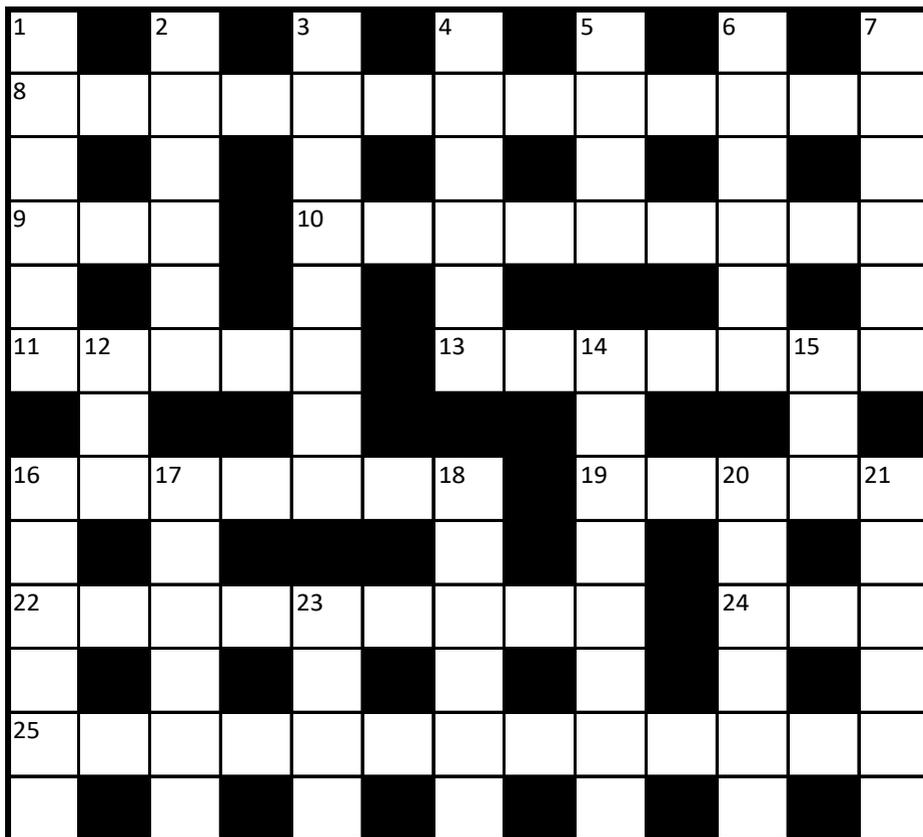
6	1	5	2	7	3	8	4	9
3	8	9	1	6	4	5	7	2
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1	9	6	3	2	7	4	5	8
2	5	8	6	4	1	3	9	7

## ANSWERS FOR DECEMBER CROSSWORD

ACROSS: 1, Depend. 4, Canopy. 7, Beak. 8, Irritate. 9, Zedekiah. 13, Ate. 16, Job's comforter. 17, NAE. 19, Lang Syne. 24, Blockade. 25, Five. 26, Enigma. 27, Drench.

DOWN: 1, Debt. 2, Peaceable. 3, Drink. 4, Curia. 5, Nuts. 6, Put it. 10, Excel. 11, Is man. 12, Hoofs. 13, Attention. 14, Ezra. 15, Ijon. 18, Aslan. 20, Abana. 21, Greed. 22, GCMG. 23, Leah.

## FEBRUARY CROSSWORD



### ACROSS

- 8 Interrogated (Acts 12:19) (5-8)  
 9 'Burn it in a wood fire on the — heap' (Leviticus 4:12) (3)  
 10 Tobit, Judith, Baruch and the books of Esdras and the Maccabees are part of it (9)  
 11 Science fiction (abbrev.) (3-2)  
 13 Clay pit (anag.) (7)  
 16 Went to (John 4:46) (7)  
 19 'Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to — your bodies as living sacrifices' (Romans 12:1) (5)  
 22 David's plea to God concerning those referred to in 14 Down: 'On — — let them escape' (Psalm 56:7) (2,7)

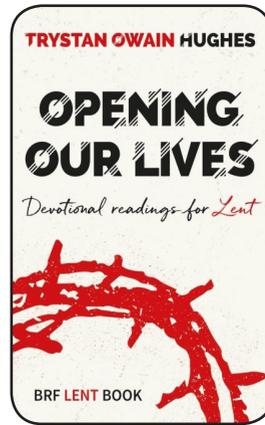
- 24 Royal Automobile Club (1,1,1) 25 How the book of Ezekiel refers to God more than 200 times (Ezekiel 2:4) (9,4)

### DOWN

- 1 Seas (Proverbs 8:24) (6)  
 2 One of the sons of Eli the priest, killed in battle by the Philistines (1 Samuel 4:11) (6)  
 3 Specialist in the study of the Muslim religion (8)  
 4 'Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but — him as if he were your father' (1 Timothy 5:1) (6)  
 5 One of Esau's grandsons (Genesis 36:11) (4)  
 6 Taking a chance (colloq.) (2,4)  
 7 God's instructions to the Israelites concerning grain offerings: ' — salt to — your offerings' (Leviticus 2:13) (3,3)  
 12 Confederation of British Industry (1,1,1)  
 14 'All day long they twist my words; they are always — to harm me' (Psalm 56:5) (8)  
 15 The crowd's reaction to Jesus bringing back to life a widow's son in Nain (Luke 7:16) (3)  
 16 Disappear (Psalm 104:35) (6)  
 17 How Jeremiah was likely to die if he wasn't rescued from the cistern where he was imprisoned (Jeremiah 38:9) (6)  
 18 What the prophets do to a wall, with whitewash (Ezekiel 13:10, RSV) (4,2)  
 20 Made by a plough (Job 39:10) (6)  
 21 Noah was relieved when the flood waters continued to — (Genesis 8:5) (6)  
 23 Jesus gave the Twelve the power and authority to do this to diseases (Luke 9:1) (4)

## OPENING OUR LIVES

This Lent, we will be following “Opening Our Lives”, a book of practical daily devotional readings looking at how we can open up our lives to God.



The book focuses on a different theme of opening our lives each week: opening our eyes to God’s presence, our ears to his call, our hearts to his love, our ways to his will, our actions to his compassion and our pain to his peace.

The author wrote the book during lockdown and each short reflection is rooted in his own experience and observations. He aims to inspire people to find God at challenging times by taking a fresh approach to Lent. Trystan says, “Through writing Opening Our Lives I want to inspire readers to find God in every part of their lives - in moments of quiet, in walks in the countryside, in time spent with family, in work or hobbies, and even in watching TV in the evening.”

Lent is not simply a time to ‘give up’ things but it can instead be a time to ‘open up’ - as we open up our own lives, as well as the lives of those around us, to God’s peace, hope, joy, and compassion.

The book is endorsed by the Archbishop of Wales, John Davies. He says, “Trystan offers material for each day of Lent through to Easter, drawing on literature, theology, scripture and easily appreciated events from his own daily life and the lives of others. I thank him for the work he has done to provide such an accessible, stimulating and refreshing resource and I am happy to recommend it as a Lenten read for both individuals and groups.”

## WHO’S WHO

Telephone code 01386

### The Vale and Cotswold Edge Ministry Team, serving 11 parishes

Revd Craig Bishop, Team Rector	841927
Revd Dana Delap, Blockley	700676
Revd Scott Watts, Honeybourne	834946
Bridget Wade (Reader)	841834
Revd Jay Niblett (Curate)	

### United Benefice of Chipping Campden, Ebrington and Mickleton Parishes

The benefice is under the care of Revd Craig Bishop within the Ministry Team. This magazine serves Chipping Campden and Ebrington, and Mickleton has a magazine too (see Mickleton Parish below).

#### Church Office

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#### Chipping Campden Parish

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	Naomi Morrey	840350
Director of Music	Richard Stephens	700668
Pastoral care team	Bridget Wade	841834
Local Safeguarding Person	Patricia Reid	849340
Youth Worker	Amy Todd	
	youthworker@stjameschurchcampden.co.uk	

#### Ebrington Parish

<a href="http://www.ebringtonchurch.org.uk">www.ebringtonchurch.org.uk</a>		
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Local Safeguarding Person	David Simpson	430053

#### Mickleton Parish

Churchwardens	Paul Titmus	438403
	Janet Barlow	430183
Parish Magazine editor	Niki Britt	430175
Local Safeguarding Person	Anne Clifford	438695

#### Church Rooms

Calf Lane, Chipping Campden, GL55 6JQ		
Lettings	Elizabeth Jones	841927

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