



The Parish of
Mitcheldean and Abenhall

Parish News

Passiontide 2017



Passiontide

Worship with us

St Michael and All Angels', Mitcheldean

1st Sunday of each month: 8.30am **Said Holy Communion** followed by

10.00 am **Family Service** (inc. Holy Communion)

Remaining Sundays: 10.00 am **Sung Eucharist**

Tuesdays: 10.30 am Holy Communion (said)

9.00am Tuesday, Wednesday: **Morning prayer**

Fridays: 12noon Midday Prayer

St Michael's, Abenhall

1st and 3rd Sundays of the month: 3.00 pm Holy Communion

2nd, 4th and 5th Sundays of the month: 3.00 pm BCP or CW Evensong

For Saints Days and other Holy Day services, please see the porch noticeboards or view the website: www.stmichaelmitcheldean.co.uk

(Children and families are very welcome at all of our services)

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Items for the next News Letter to Fr David by 15th of this month please.

Don't forget this news letter is available by email or on the church website. If you'd like it emailed please send an email to Fr David

Holy Week

Holy week this year will be slightly different to the past few years in that we don't have a visiting preacher to lead us through the week. Instead the job of steering our thoughts will be a team effort. The talks on the Monday Tuesday and Wednesday of Holy Week will be by three members of the congregation and from Maundy Thursday until our celebration of the resurrection our thoughts will be led by Fr David and Lara

Holy Week, the most important few days in the year. In an age when even for Christians Sunday worship is not always our first priority, I would encourage you all to make a priority of the journey through this week. Walking with the disciples alongside Jesus towards the cross, the tomb and glorious Easter day.

Our pattern of worship will be the same as the last few years starting with the Palm Sunday procession, and dramatic reading of the passion Gospel, a daily evening service of communion, Monday to Wednesday, the Eucharist of the last supper and foot washing on Maundy Thursday evening. We will keep the Watch until midnight and begin good Friday with morning prayer at 9.00am, and there will be two opportunities to be part of the Good Friday Liturgy, 12.00noon at Abenhall and 2.00pm in Mitcheldean.

Our Easter Celebrations begin with the Easter vigil, new fire, and Eucharist at 8.00pm on Easter Eve and continue on Easter Day with a Family Eucharist at 10.00a, in Mitcheldean and Holy Communion at 3.00pm in Abenhall. You'll find the complete list later in the magazine.

There are many ways you can get involved with the worship in Holy week.

*On **Palm Sunday** as well as taking part in the procession (bring a branch to wave) we will need people to take part in the reading of the passion story.

In preparation for Maundy Thursday we will need lots of small flowers for the altar of repose, these can be left in the lady chapel in the morning.

*On **Maundy Thursday** you will be able to take part in the dramatic telling of Jesus washing the disciples feet, by having a foot washed your self. And we will need volunteers to be in church for half hour periods during the watch.

*At the **Easter Vigil** on Holy Saturday please bring along a bell to ring at the moment when we sing the 1st Gloria of Easter turn on the lights and ring bells.

For those things where we need volunteers there are sign up lists in church.

And on Easter day bring flowers with you to decorate the cross in the church yard.

David

Flower Festival. A date for your diary, there will be a flower festival in Mitcheldean church on 17th 18th and 19th of June in Mitcheldean church.

Christian Aid Week May 2017

Just as Christmas seems to come round more quickly each year so does Christian Aid Week! The dates are May 14th to 20th. The plight of those fleeing from Syria and the thousands of people leaving North Africa in precarious boats, seeking a new life in Europe, daily remind us of the need to help. Jesus said that the greatest two commandments were to love God and to love our neighbour as ourselves. To go to the aid of those refugees is a most obvious way of fulfilling these two commandments. In Mitcheldean we will again be collecting House to House and we will need helpers to do this. If you could give just half an hour of your time to deliver a Christian Aid envelope and collect it a day later, you would be joining the thousands of people from all denominations throughout this country who are seeking demonstrating, in a practical way, their love of their neighbours. Please contact me on 01594 825282 if you are willing to help. Chris Wagstaff

MUOSIC for MUSCLES 2017

Following last year's highly successful Music for Muscles concert, the Royal Forest of Dean Branch of Muscular Dystrophy UK is very proud to present the 2017 concert on Saturday 6th May at St Michael and All Angels Church in Mitcheldean. This year will feature performances from The Forest of Dean Male Voice Choir, the Forest Flute Choir and sensational harpist Jemima Phillips. Jemima has performed at the very highest level and to have her play in Mitcheldean is a major coup for Music for Muscles. Her mix of traditional and contemporary styles will amaze and delight you. Tickets will go on sale at the beginning of April and you are advised to secure them early. The ticket price will be £7. Refreshments will be available. For details, please contact Martin Whitehouse on 07796 585255 or email Martinwhitehouse586@btinternet.com. All proceeds will be donated to the Forest of Dean Branch of Muscular Dystrophy UK to help fund research into devastating muscle wasting diseases

FILM NIGHT Showing The Sound of Music



With an Austrian themed meal (Fancy dress encouraged!)
Saturday May 13th 6.00pm
Tickets £ 7.50 Available from Sue Lewis c 01594 542618

Paul Parsons
1935 – 2017

Margaret would like to thank everyone for their kind thoughts, support and prayers in the weeks following Paul's death.

Daily Bible readings:

April

1st John 11. 17-27

2nd John 11. 1-45

3rd John 11. 28-44

4th John 11. 45-end

5th John 12. 1-11

6th John 12. 12-19

7th John 12. 20-36a

8th John 12. 36b-end

9th Matthew 21. 1-11

10th John 12. 1-11

11th John 12. 20-36

12th John 13. 21-32

13th John 13. 1-17, 31b -35

14th John 18. 1-end of 19

15th Matthew 27. 57-end

16th Matthew 28. 1-10

17th Mark 16. 1-8

18th Luke 24. 1-12

19th Matthew 28. 16-end

20th Luke 7. 11-17

21st Luke 8. 41-end

22nd John 11. 17-44

23rd John 20. 19-end

24th John 15. 18-21

25th Mark 13. 5-13

26th John 20. 19-end

27th John 21. 1-14

28th John 21. 15-19

29th John 21. 20-end

30th Luke 24. 13-35

We are privileged to have the Reverend Lara Bloom on placement with us at the moment. Lara is the curate in the Leadon Vale benefice where she is currently with out a training incumbent. She writes...

My name is The Reverend Lara Bloom, I'm married to Ian and we have two children, Natasha (12) and Alexander (8). I trained for ministry at Ripon College, Cuddesdon. Training was demanding and intense but we did find time as a family to explore the city of Oxford and the surrounding countryside and became quite used to the call of the red kites that are often seen in the skies near where we lived. Prior to Oxford we lived in Tewkesbury and my sending parish is Tewkesbury abbey where Natasha and Alexander are both choristers. As a family we love cooking together, watching movies and exploring the countryside. Music is very important to us, Natasha and I have both sung in choirs and we are both learning to play the piano although Natasha is a rather quicker learner than I am! I was ordained deacon in 2015 and priest in 2016. For the past two years I have been a curate in the Leadon Vale serving nine parishes and churches in and around Newent and Dymock. My training incumbent left in July of last year so I have had a rather steeper learning curve than expected! I have come to the benefice of Mitcheldean and Abenhall on placement with Fr. David and look forward to getting to know both communities.

Holy Week. 2017

April 9th Palm Sunday

9.45am Procession of Palms. Starting at the Rectory

10.00am Eucharist and reading of the passion

3.00pm Evening Prayer. Abenhall

Monday in Holy week

7.00pm Eucharist: Mitcheldean

Tuesday in Holy Week

1030am Holy Communion: Mitcheldean

7.00pm Eucharist: Mitcheldean

Wednesday in Holy week

7.00pm Eucharist: Mitcheldean

Muandy Thursday

11.00am Chrism Mass: Cathedral

7.30pm Eucharist of the last supper; Mitcheldean

Followed by The Watch

Good Friday

9.00am Morning Prayer. Mitcheldean

12.00noon Good Friday Liturgy: Abenhall

2.00pm Good Friday Liturgy: Mitcheldean

Holy Saturday

8.00pm Vigil, Easter ceremonies and Eucharist: Mitcheldean.

Easter Day

10.00am Family Eucharist: Mitcheldean

3.00pm Holy Communion: Abenhall.

Dates.

4th and 5th April. 11.00am and 1.30pm Experience Easter. M

7th April 2.15pm School Easter Service. M

29th April 10.00am Annual Church Meeting. M

The Diocesan Messenger,

The Messenger, April 2017

Bishop Rachel invited speakers to inspire and challenge MPs and guests at an event in the House of Lords to mark International Women's Day. The event was hosted in partnership with Christian Aid, Nelson Trust and Restored, to promote gender equality.

Muzoon Almellehan, an 18-year-old Syrian refugee spoke for the Malala Fund about the importance of prioritising girls' education. She said: "While I was in the refugee camp in Jordan, I went from tent to tent to tell parents that [their daughters] needed teachers, not husbands." She called on the UK government to increase support for education, especially for female refugees.

Niki Gould from the Nelson Trust, a Gloucestershire-based organisation that supports disadvantaged women with complex, multiple needs said: "As a consequence of women going into prison, over 17,000 children are separated from their mothers each year. Over 80% of these women have committed a non-violent offence. It costs £45,000 to keep a woman in prison, we are paid £550 to support women in the community."

Christian Aid's Chief Executive Loretta Minghella said: "Christian Aid was delighted to partner with Bishop Rachel and with Restored, as together we seek to mobilise the faith community to challenge and change the discriminatory beliefs that lie at the root of gender inequality. Our voices have the power to transform people's experience of gender – especially for women and girls living in poverty – and to ensure they are shaped not by oppression, but by justice, dignity and hope."

Mandy Marshall, Co-Director of Restored said, "30% of women worldwide experience violence from their partner. Faith based organisations have great reach and influence at both national and local level in millions of communities across the globe. With the right support, we believe they have the potential to challenge the injustice of gender inequality and hasten the end of violence against women.

She ended with a challenge to each of us: "How is what I am doing affecting relationships? Am I giving all of who I am to empower and build others up or am I using the power that I have to diminish and dominate?"

At this time of Lent and Easter, we can all think of ways that we can promote the flourishing of others—what change will you make today?

.Do you know young people who are passionate about fellow young people exploring and growing in the Christian faith? The Youth Priority Group, part of the Diocese of Gloucester's LIFE vision, are looking for two young people (aged 16-19) to be a vital part of this group. Young people will need to have a reference from a youth worker or someone in a position of authority in their church. Please contact Andy or Sharon Macaulay for more info andy@therock.uk.com, 01242 700700 as soon as possible.

Abundance: living life to the full in a rural community

Saturday 10 June, 10am to 4.15pm, Hartpury College

What does 'life to the full' look like in our rural communities? How can rural churches engage imaginatively in our rural communities and express our faith in ways that are life-giving?

The answer to these questions often needs a specific approach in the rural context. A different way of thinking about mission is necessary for it to be suitable for our villages and wider rural environment. For this reason, we have created an event that draws together a variety of organisations and practitioners that understand the rural context and can offer inspiration and insight that are appropriate for the life of small village congregations. Our hope is that by focussing on the rural environment, we will be offering tools and resources that are a better fit and therefore more easily put into practice.

The event is open to all, including members of the other Christian denominations who share our neighbourhoods. The event has been planned ecumenically, with particularly significant input from Churches Together and the Methodist Church. Come along and be inspired. Booking details: 1452 835544 nkent@glosdioc.org.uk

Events:

Thursday 27 April, 9.30am to 1pm

Talking of Glory in a Darwinian World

Dr Christopher Southgate proposes a way of understanding divine glory that gives due weight to the pathos of the world while emphasising both God's sovereignty and God's redemptive love. £5 refreshments provided.

Saturday 29 April to Monday 1 May, 10.30am to 5.30pm

Flower celebration

St Bartholomew's, Churchdown

Light refreshments, plant sale, music, Christian art display. Donations welcome.

Thursday 4 May

WEMTC Open evening

Local training for contextually-rooted ministry. Contact jcusworth@wemtc.org.uk 01452 874969.

Have your say

Visit Facebook **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**