



The Parish of  
**Mitcheldean and Abenhall**

# Parish News

Candlemass 2017



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## **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

2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month: 3.00 pm Evensong

For Saints Days and other Holy Day services, please see the porch noticeboards or view the website: [www.stmichaelmitcheldean.co.uk](http://www.stmichaelmitcheldean.co.uk)

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

Contacts:

Fr David

[fr.d.gill@gmail.com](mailto:fr.d.gill@gmail.com)

01594 542952

Licensed Reader.

Janet Keene

01594 780655.

Church Wardens:

Sue Lewis

01594 542618

[susan.lewis49@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:susan.lewis49@yahoo.co.uk)

Sheila baker

01594 543522

[sheila.baker4@btinternet.com](mailto:sheila.baker4@btinternet.com)

## Lent 2017

For our Lent course this year we are going to use some material from the very successful York Courses ([yorkcourses.co.uk](http://yorkcourses.co.uk)) . Their course for Lent 2017 is called **Receiving Christ**. There are five sessions as follows.

March 8<sup>th</sup> Receiving Christ as Children of God

March 15<sup>th</sup> Receiving Christ in the stranger and the needy

March 22<sup>nd</sup> Receiving Christ in Holy Communion.

March 29<sup>th</sup> Receiving Christ through Prayer and fellowship

April 5<sup>th</sup> Christ in you, the hope of glory.

We will meet at the Rectory at 7.00pm and each session will last no more than 90 minutes.

Each session involves listening to a CD and then a time for discussion helped by questions provided by the course. My experience of using York courses in the past has shown them to be really excellent, and although the session titles might seem a bit heavy !! I can assure you that the material is really accessible, challenging , inspiring and affirming! Can it do all of this??? you'll have to come along to find out.

All those doing the course will need a course booklet so we are going to need to know if you intend to come along so we can order the right number. Having said that, although it would be good if you can come each week, each session does stand on it's own so if you have to miss the odd week it won't affect your engagement with those you can come to.

There will be a sign up sheet in each church.

**Ash Wednesday** falls on March 1st there will be a service of Holy Communion with the opportunity to receive the imposition of ashes, at 7.00pm in Mitcheldean church.

**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

**Soup Lunches:** By popular demand soup lunches at the Rectory are continuing. February h 2nd 9th and 16th .  
The lunches will then be taking a rest. But I would be very happy to hear ideas for or support for other social/food or social/chat or anything else that you have always wished happened or always wanted to organise but never got around to. David

**Muscular Dystrophy** UK (South West ) is presenting 'An Evening With Dick Brice and Friends ' in Mitcheldean Community Centre on Sat 18th March . This promises to be a sell out evening featuring the ever popular songwriter, singer and raconteur Dick Brice , supported by local singer/songwriters Clint Mann and Tracey Dixon.

Tickets at £7 and bookings are available from Martin on 07796 585255 , Martinwhitehouse586@btinternet.com , or in Mitcheldean Library . There will be a raffle and guests should bring their own snacks and drinks , You are advised to book early as space is limited .

Items for the next News Letter to Fr David by 15<sup>th</sup> 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

## Daily Bible readings:

February

1<sup>st</sup> 1Corinthians 14. 1-19

**2<sup>nd</sup> Luke 2. 22-40**

3<sup>rd</sup> 1 Corinthians 16. 1-9

4<sup>th</sup> 1Corinthians 16. 10-end

**5<sup>th</sup> Matthew 5. 13-20**

6<sup>th</sup> John 15. 1-11

7<sup>th</sup> John 15. 12-17

8<sup>th</sup> John 15. 18-end

9<sup>th</sup> John 16. 1-15

10<sup>th</sup> John 16. 16-22

11<sup>th</sup> John 16. 23-end

**12<sup>th</sup> Matthew 5. 21-37**

13<sup>th</sup> John 17. 1-5

14<sup>th</sup> John 17. 6-19

15<sup>th</sup> John 17. 2-end

16<sup>th</sup> John 18. 1-11

17<sup>th</sup> John 18. 12-27

18<sup>th</sup> John 28-end

**19<sup>th</sup> Matthew 6. 25-end**

20<sup>th</sup> John 19. 1-16

21<sup>st</sup> John 19. 1-16

22<sup>nd</sup> John 19. 31-end

23<sup>rd</sup> John 2-. 1-10

24<sup>th</sup> John 20. 11-18

25<sup>th</sup> John 20. 11-18

**26<sup>th</sup> Matthew 17. 1-9**

27<sup>th</sup> John 3. 1-21

28<sup>th</sup> John 3. 22-end

### Dates.

February 1<sup>st</sup> PCC Rectory. 7.30pm

March 1<sup>st</sup> Ash Wednesday. 7.00pm Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes

March 4<sup>th</sup> 10.00am Jumble Sale. Mitcheldean

Phil Andrew who is currently Vicar of Reigate, St Mary Magdalene and Honorary Canon of Southwark Cathedral will become **Archdeacon of Cheltenham** on 11 March. There will be a service of welcome in Gloucester Cathedral at 4.30pm on Sunday 11 March.

## **MITCHELDEAN YOUNG POETS' COMPETITION 2017**

This year Mitcheldean Young Poets' competition, working in partnership with Dean Forest Junior Forest Bard and aiming to attract entries from all over the forest and surrounding region, has a new collaborator in Dean Heritage Centre at Soudley.

They will be offering a series of poetry workshops in which after a morning of forest-related activities the young poets will be encouraged to shape their impressions and ideas into poems. These will then be entered into the two competitions. For further information please contact [joanne@deanheritagecentre.com](mailto:joanne@deanheritagecentre.com) – phone 01594 822170

Details for this year's Young Poets' Competition are as follows: poems may be on any topic(though only those of 'Forest' themes will be passed on to the 'Junior Forest Bard'). The preferred maximum length is up to 20 lines:

Closing date for applications 31<sup>st</sup> May 2017 with the winners to be announced at the end of June. There will be four age groups: 5-8; 9-11; 12-16; & 17-18 with prizes of £20, £10 & £5 for the first, second and third in each group. Prize-winners will be invited to read their poems and receive their prizes at the poetry recital to be held at Mitcheldean Library on

Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> July as part of the Mitcheldean Fete & Folk Festival. Entry forms can be obtained from the library and selected other local libraries or from the library website (see address below)

**For further details contact John Livesey; 07974201434; or e-mail:website@gl17hub.org**

# **The Diocesan Messenger, D 2017**

## **Using sport, music and art to build relationships and share the Christian faith**

Our new LIFE vision offers a wide range of areas to engage with how we live out and share our faith. I believe one of the most exciting of these is Sports Ministry.

I am excited because this is an area of engagement which is relevant to groups who are often absent from traditional Church services; children, teenagers, young families, men. I am excited because we as a Diocese are richly blessed with opportunities and resources, PSALMS being prominent amongst them (see overleaf).

I am excited because this is not a new area of mission, but one with a rich and wide range of thought and practice readily accessible. I am excited because the group of people who have come together to guide this priority are hugely talented, recognised nationally for their excellence. I am excited because I can see how we as a Diocese can come together to develop something truly transformational for our communities. I am excited because I can see it will help deepen the faith of my own children. I am excited because such hopefulness can only come from an outpouring of the Spirit.

I hope as you consider and pray for our new vision you will find your own excitement but if you are struggling, take a closer look at sport's ministry.

Diocesan Secretary, Benjamin Preece Smith

## **Sport as a route to faith**

Canon Ian Marsh is the Chairman of PSALMS, a Stroud-based charity that works to engage hundreds of children and young people with church through sport. He explains some of the latest developments in this rapidly growing ministry.

"Sports ministry unquestionably provides an excellent vehicle for churches to connect with people in their communities. The more difficult part of sports ministry is how we can effectively build upon those connections to help people come to a personal faith in the Lord Jesus, to take a leadership role within the church.

"Over the 11 years since PSALMS started, this has been our continual challenge. Recently, a strong cohort of nine year 11s who attended the youth club showed interest in and commitment to growing in their faith, so we set up a One Year Leadership Academy.

"Following a formal interview process, they now meet monthly for an evening of leadership training and a meal together. We have had excellent session leaders including Bishop Rachel. They each have an adult mentor within the church with whom they meet monthly, they have attended various challenging conferences and residential together and are required to take on leadership roles. It is also tied into the Duke of Edinburgh scheme.

"Their growth was reflected in the way that they took on leadership at our second annual PSALMS camp/residential (TRAC). We had 66 people (47 youngsters) from across our area and the Leadership Academy were such a good model for the younger ones.

If you are inspired by the PSALMS story and want to learn more about the scheme, contact Ian Marsh at [ian.marsh@psalms.uk.net](mailto:ian.marsh@psalms.uk.net)

## **Rwanda sports mission partnership**

July will see the start of a new initiative to train and support sports mission leaders to run projects in Rwanda. A team from the UK, led by Scripture Union England & Wales and the Diocese of Gloucester will head to Kigali to serve this new venture. The UK team will observe leaders being trained and supported to start their own local sports ministry projects. The aim is to bring the skills learnt in Africa back to the UK to support new sports initiatives here. To find out more, contact John Longuet-Higgins on 01452 700965 or vicar.westof7@gmail.com

## **Sharing our stories in new and different ways: new Life, new look**

February sees the launch of a new diocesan website. We wanted to make the website simpler to navigate, with more cross-linking between different topics. It can still be found at the [www.gloucester.anglican.org](http://www.gloucester.anglican.org) address, so let us know what you think. If you have any ideas about how we could improve it, get in touch with our Senior Digital Media Officer, Sam Cavender on [scavender@glosdioc.org.uk](mailto:scavender@glosdioc.org.uk)

New diocesan logos will be available to download from the website, along with a short guide about how to use them to best effect (look under the parish resources tab). It would be great if you were able to include these on your websites and other publications to show how we all belong together in the Diocese of Gloucester.

The diocesan communications team sends out a monthly newsletter called the Bulletin. It provides lots of information, from training opportunities for clergy, to safeguarding updates and messages from Bishop Rachel. You can subscribe on the diocesan website under the news and events tab.

## **Events and training**

### Saturday 4 February

#### **Open Day, Trinity College, Bristol**

Prospective students are invited to join us on 2017 to chat with our faculty and current students, get a taste of what it could mean to study in community, and consider whether God may be calling you here. For more information, contact [n.willcocks@trinitycollegebristol.ac.uk](mailto:n.willcocks@trinitycollegebristol.ac.uk) or 0117 968 0254

### Saturday, 11 February

#### **Exploring God's call on your life**, with the Revd Pauline Godfrey

Jerusalem Room, 4 College Green, Gloucester GL1 2LR, 10am to 4pm

Through input, discussion and personal reflection, lay and ordained guest speakers and scripture we will explore various callings and ministries. You will be encouraged to reflect upon your own personal journey of Christian discipleship and to utilise resources for discerning God's will for your next move. We bring together guests from a variety of ministries, lay and ordained, who will share their experiences and answer your questions. [nkent@glosdioc.org.uk](mailto:nkent@glosdioc.org.uk) to book. More information from Pauline, 01452 835548.

### Saturday 18 February

#### **Revive, youth day, St Andrew's, Churchdown**

Day conference, 10am to 4pm including seminars, lunch and fun

Evening celebration, 7pm to 8.30pm

Revive is a day for youth, focused on digging deeper into God's presence, through prayer, worship, talks and ministry. Speakers: Emma Worrall and Tebo Mpanza. The aim is to empower young people to stand up and live out their faith. £6. Book at [reviveday2017.eventbrite.co.uk](http://reviveday2017.eventbrite.co.uk)