



The Parish of
Mitcheldean and Abenhall

Parish News

Summer 2017



Summer

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, Thursday; 8.45am Friday **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

'His clothes became dazzling white.'

This magazine covers at least two months over the summer. July and August seem to contain an unusually high number of saints days, we pass Thomas, Mary Magdalene, James, Mary Jesus' mother and Bartholomew during these weeks. But amongst all these saints is a celebration of a different sort, the feast of the Transfiguration which falls on August the 6th.

The story of the transfiguration (Luke 9. 28-36) is one of those that I don't really know how to take. My understanding of the incarnation, (that God became man in the person of Jesus) doesn't fit well with the altering of Jesus appearance and the vision of Moses and Elijah. I actually wonder if I am not in good company in this as, Luke is the only evangelist to claim that Peter John and James were asleep and woke to see the vision. Did Luke also have problems with the story.

However the story of the transfiguration does remind me of a resurrection story, the story of the road to Emmaus. There are for me parallels between the two stories,

There is the journey with Jesus, in one up the mountain and the other along the road to Emmaus, although in that case of course the disciples didn't know it was Jesus they were walking with.

On both journeys we can imagine the conversations that went on, of course on the Emmaus road we are told that Jesus explained how scripture pointed to all that had happened.

And at the end in both cases there is a revelation. When Jesus broke bread at the end of the day on the Emmaus road the disciples recognised him, and on the mountain he is seen with Moses and Elijah, and transfigured, or seen in a new way.

Of course Moses and Elijah are an image for all that the old testament stands for, they represent 'the law and the prophets'. And Jesus being seen with them is significant, I don't think it makes any difference to us whether the disciples were asleep or not, but I have to say I quite like the idea that this vision was a dawning realisation for them of who Jesus was, a bit like those disciples on the Emmaus road recognising him in the breaking of bread. I like the idea that the time they have spent with Jesus since he called them to be his disciples comes to a small climax after their climb up the mountain,, 'this is my son, my chosen, listen to Him'.

Each of us is called on a journey with Jesus, we are called to walk by his side, the church assists us in that Journey by it's celebration of these important occasions in His life, and it's celebration of the lives of those whose own lives have been transfigured by Christ, the saints.

Continues→

The Transfiguration...continued

If we are faithful to the churches calendar we can't ignore those bits of the story we find difficult as I find this story difficult, our journey with Jesus, our journey of faith is not supposed to be always easy, sometimes the journey feels like climbing the mountain with him, and maybe we occasionally lose sight of him in the clouds, but it will also occasionally feel like a stroll down the Emmaus road in conversation with him. Either way our engagement with Jesus the man leads us to a new understanding of him, and the revelation that he is Jesus the Christ the anointed one, the chosen one. And the revelation that he is calling each of us by name to himself so that he can show us the father.

David Gill

For your Diary: On September 17th Bishop Rachel is visiting the parish. She will be with us at 3.00pm at Abenhall. On that Sunday there will be no 10.00am service at Mitcheldean. We will arrange transport to Abenhall for all who need it.

Music, Tea and Swing..... CONCERT Coleford Community Choir

Conductor Sam Davis Supported by The Wind Band

On Saturday 8th July 2017 at 2.30pm

At St Michaels Church, Abenhall

Tickets £8. Including refreshments.

Cream Tea. The Rectory, The Stenders

Sunday September 10th 4.00pm – 6.00pm NEW DATE!!

A priest and a taxi driver both died and went to heaven. St. Peter was at the Pearly gates waiting for them. *'Come with me'*, said St. Peter to the taxi driver. The taxi driver did as he was told and followed St. Peter to a mansion.

It had anything you could imagine from a bowling alley to an olympic size pool. *'Wow, thank you'*, said the taxi driver. Next, St. Peter led the priest to a rugged old shack with a bunk bed and a little old television set.

'Wait, I think you are a little mixed up', said the priest. *'Shouldn't I be the one who gets the mansion? After all I was a priest, went to church every day, and preached God's word.'* *'Yes, that's true. But during your sermons people slept. When the taxi driver drove, everyone prayed.'*

Dates.

July 8th 2.00pm Tea and swing. Abenhall

July 15th & 16th Mitcheldean Folk Festival

Daily Bible readings:

July

1st Romans 11. 13-24

2nd Matthew 10. 40-end

3rd John 20. 24-end

4th Romans 12. 1-8

5th Romans 12. 9-end

6th Romans 13. 1-7

7th Romans 13. 8-end

8th Romans 14. 1-12

9th Matthew 11. 16- end

10th Romans 14. 13-end

11th Romans 15. 1-13

12th Romans 15. 14-21

13th Romans 15. 22-end

14th Romans 16. 1-16

15th Romans 16. 17-end

16th Matthew 13. 1-9, 18-23

17th 2Corinthians 1. 1-14

18th 2Corinthians 1. 15-2. 4

19th 2Corinthians 2. 5-end

20th 2Corinthians 3

21st 2Corinthians 4

22nd John 20. 1-2, 11-18

23rd Matthew 13. 24-30, 36-43

24th 2Corinthians 6. 1- 7.1

25th Matthew 20. 20-28

26th 2Corinthians 8. 1-15

27th 2Corinthians 8. 16- 9. end

28th 2Corinthians 9. 6-end

29th 2Corinthians 10

30th Matthew 13. 31-33, 44-52

31st 2Corinthians 11. 1-15

August:

1st 2Corinthians 11. 1-15

2nd 2Corinthians 12

3rd 2Corinthians 13

4th James 1. 1-11

5th James 1. 12-end

6th Luke 9. 28-36

7th James 2. 1-13

8th James 2. 14-end

9th James 3

10th James 4. 1-12

11th James 4. 13- 5. 6

12th James 5. 7-end

13th Matthew 14. 22-33

14th Mark 1. 1-13

15th Luke 1. 46-55

16th Mark 1. 21-28

17th Mark 1. 29-end

18th Mark 2. 1-12

19th Mark 2. 13-22

20th Matthew 15. 21-28

21st Mark 2. 23- 3. 6

22nd Mark 3. 19b-end

23rd Mark 3. 19b-end

24th Luke 22. 24-30

25th Mark 4. 21-34

26th Mark 4. 35-end

27th Matthew 16. 13-20

28th Mark 5. 21-34

29th Mark 5. 21-34

30th Mark 5. 35-end

31st Mark 6. 14-29

The Diocesan Messenger,

Opening new paths to faith

Imagination: Investing in our engagement with baptism families to spark an amazing adventure with Jesus Christ

The Bishop of Tewkesbury, the Rt Revd Robert Springett

One of the sights that will stay with me all my life is of a group of Ugandan children drawing water from a well at their school. As they lifted the heavy pump they sang and danced, thankful for the amazing and precious gift of water. We, so used to simply turning the tap and finding it there, take this gift so often for granted, yet it is essential. We need it to wash, to be clean, to protect ourselves from germs and infection, and we need it to keep ourselves alive -without it we die!

It should be no surprise therefore that it is this precious gift that we use in baptism, ordinary water out of the tap, over which we remember the great story of our faith and by which we pray those baptised may be cleansed from sin, born again, renewed in faith, and continue for ever living the risen life that is found in Jesus Christ.

To be baptised is to be called to live life to the full, to begin an amazing journey with Jesus Christ, who gives us life and wants us to journey with him. It won't always be easy -that is not his promise -but it will always, even in adversity, be filled with new possibilities, with hope and potential, for this is God's gift to us, that he has made us, loves us and calls us to life.

An amazing invitation indeed, offered for all, awaiting just one thing, a response from us...

Making a difference for baptism families

The Revd Jo Wetherall, Diocesan Children and Families Officer

This has been really good, so different from last time,-a parent said as she told me how her parish had welcomed her. I met a really nice 'man vicar' -at Mums and Toddlers- who gave me the information. Then we were invited to church to talk about the Christening which I really enjoyed. I met the lady 'reverend' and some other ladies from the church who will be there on Sunday, and now you have come to see us. Last time there was nothing, I just phoned up and we went to the church on the day.

It isn't really appropriate to punch the air and shout 'yes!'-as you walk away from such a visit, but I really wanted to. This church is making baptism a mission priority - they really are taking the bigger Kingdom view, that engaging with baptism families is a step in sparking an amazing adventure with Jesus Christ. Although their professions mean this family will never be long-term members of this church, the baptism is very much an important part of their faith journey.

R On the day, the ladies were there to welcome, to read and to encourage. During the service, I wrapped a blanket made by a member of the congregation, around the baby. The 'ahh' which rose from the family and friends was a significant response to a meaningful symbol of welcome and belonging.

Find out more about the Archbishops' Council Research into Baptisms and the ideas and resources available

<https://churchsupporthub.org/baptisms> or contact Jo at jwetherall@glosdioc.org.uk

Saying Goodbye: Remembrance Service

Saturday 1 July, 6pm, Tewkesbury Abbey

A service for anyone who has either personally lost a baby at any stage of pregnancy, at birth or in early years, or who has been affected by a family member's or friend's loss. We welcome anyone who is grieving the fact that they haven't had children. Babies and children are also invited to come with their family.

Baptism bears bringing families back to church

St Lawrence' Church in Cheltenham is using personal invitation and a special gift to welcome baptism families back to church.

A member of the congregation knits a teddy bear for every child baptised at the church. Last Pentecost, they held a Pentecost Teddy Bears' Picnic when all the children were invited to bring their teddies and families for a Messy Church-style session with craft activities. Around 50 people came to the picnic and one family have become regular worshippers.

All families are sent a personal invitation to other key family services in the church's calendar including the crib service, Christingle service and Mothering Sunday.

The Revd Liz Palin, Team Vicar in the North Cheltenham Team Ministry, said: 'his is a really important ministry and we all want to welcome more families to church, so for us it was an obvious thing to continue our relationship with our baptism families. It's about helping them to nurture their child in their journey of faith.'

Ride+Stride 2017: Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust, 9 September 2017

A great day out and a valuable fundraiser for your church. For more information visit www.ghct.org.uk or contact county organiser Glenn Duff on rideandstride@ghct.org.uk

Events and training

Positive Justice Gloucestershire Lunchtime Forum,

Saturday 8 July, 11.30-2.30pm, Rodborough Community Hall, Stroud, GL5 3TZ

Two speakers from Glos organisation 'Great Expectations' and a magistrate will discuss how to divert young people from crime. Please bring some food to share. Free, all welcome. More information from www.pjglos.org.uk

Creation Celebration

Sunday 9 July, 1pm to 4.30pm, Cotswold Farm, off A417 nr Duntisbourne Abbots, GL7 7JS

Suitable for all ages. Bring a picnic and discover the wildlife of this beautiful Cotswold estate, together with people from other local churches. The day will end with tea and cakes and a short time of outdoor worship. Activities will include walks, nature trails, pond dipping and craft activities all based around the theme of Homes. For more information, please contact Maria Wells, mariageoffwells@gmail.com

Digital media training

Thursday 13 July, 7pm to 8.30pm, St Stephen's , Cinderford

Sharing our stories in new and different ways, including through digital media, is one of the priorities that was highlighted in the new LIFE vision for our Diocese. We would like to help train and resource more of our congregations, clergy and parish teams to feel confident in using social media both to promote our churches and to share stories of individual faith journeys. Places are free, but please let us know you are coming by emailing kclamp@glosdioc.org.uk or calling 01452 835515.

Comedy in the Gospel of John

Wednesday 16 August, 9.30am-11.30pm Chipping Campden Parish Rooms

Looking specifically at the comedy that John has written in or left space for. The day will start with an introduction to some theological background to the study of the Gospel that encourages their performance in a humorous way. J 30 Details from Sheila Rosenthal, 01386 700530 or rev.s.rosenthal@gmail.com

Have your say

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kclamp@glosdioc.org.uk, follow us on Twitter **@glosdioc**, view videos on

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