



The Parish of
Mitcheldean and Abenhall

Parish News

Easter 2017



EASTER

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)

Contacts:

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Assistant Curate

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Licensed Reader.

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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

Christian Aid week

May brings Christian Aid week, this year's campaign is raising funds to support their work with refugees. As well as the door to door collection, this year there is a soup lunch at Peta and George Moffat's (Tuesday 16th) and a Big Brekkie (Saturday 20th) at Forest gate church. Christian aid's publicity includes Nejebar's story.

Nejebar fled Afghanistan with her family after the Taliban threatened to kill her husband, Noor, who was a teacher. It wasn't an idle threat - the Taliban first blinded, then murdered, another member of their family.

'The last days and weeks in Afghanistan were the hardest,' says Noor. 'When I went to work, my heart was beating harder. I didn't know if my family were going to be alive when I got back.'

Nejebar's family are stuck in Greece

When the family arrived at the refugee camp in Greece, they thought they would only stay for 10 days. But they've been there six months now and there's no end in sight.

The only protection they have against the wind and rain is their tent. There's no school for their children. Five-year-old Sudai, their youngest, is ill, but Nejebar and Noor don't know what's wrong with him because they can't communicate with the camp's doctor, who is Greek.

Nejebar is the rock at the centre of her family, holding them together throughout all this uncertainty. She has even welcomed Faraidoon and Farzad into the family, two brothers who don't know where their parents are, or if they're even alive.

'We still have some hope for our children's future,' says Nejebar. 'We only want a peaceful life. We want our children to go to school. The most important thing is our children.'



Tuck in to change lives

Want to change the world over
breakfast? Then come and fill up
at our Big Brekkie! We'll be serving
up a delicious morning meal, and
raising money to help refugees.

At Forest Gate Church
Saturday 20th May
8.00am - 11.00am

christian
aid
week
14-20 MAY

Eng and Wales charity no. 1105851 Scot charity no. SC039150 Company no. 5171525
Christian Aid Ireland: NI charity no. NIC101631 Company no. NI059154 and ROI
charity no. 20014162 Company no. 426928. The Christian Aid name and logo are
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Christian Aid January 2017 17705

Daily Bible readings:

May:

1st John 14. 1-14

2nd Ephesians 1. 15-end

3rd Ephesians 2. 1-10

4th Ephesians 2. 11-end

5th Ephesians 3. 1-13

6th Ephesians 3. 14-end

7th John 10. 1-10

8th Ephesians 4. 1-16

9th Ephesians 4. 17-end

10th Ephesians 5. 1-14

11th Ephesians 5. 15-end

12th Ephesians 6. 1-9

13th Ephesians 6. 10-end

14th May John 14. 1-14

15th John 15. 9-17

16th 1 Peter 1. 13-end

17th May 1Peter 2. 1-10

18th 1Peter 2. 11-end

19th 1 peter 3. 1-12

20th 1Peter 3. 13-end

21st John 14. 15-21

22nd 1Peter 4. 1-11

23rd 1Peter 4. 12-end

24th 1 Peter 5

25th Luke 24. 44-end

26th 1 John 1. 1-126

27th 1John 2. 7-17

28th John 17. 1-11

29th 1John 2. 18-end

30th 1John 3. 1-10

31st Luke 1. 39 -49

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

You may be aware that the right of presentation to the living for his benefice was suspended before I came to Mitcheldean. This meant that I was appointed as Priest in Charge not as incumbent (Rector). The living is often suspended when pastoral re-organisation is being looked at. It is much easier for changes to parish boundaries or benefices to be made when the parish priest is not the incumbent.

Following our becoming one parish two years ago I was asked if there was any reason why the suspension should not be lifted. It has taken two years nearly but at last the Archdeacon has arranged to come and re-license me on Sunday 18th June at the 10.00am service, this means that I will then be the Rector of this parish. David

Ascension Day: May 25th 2017

Ascension Day celebrates Jesus's ascension to heaven after he was resurrected on Easter Day.

We can read Mark's version of the story in ch 16 Vv9-20.

“Jesus appeared first to Mary of Magdala. She went and carried the news to his mourning and sorrowful followers, but when she told them that he was alive they did not believe her.

Later he appeared to two of the disciples as they were walking into the countryside. They also went and took the news to the others, but again they did not believe that the Lord was alive.

Then, when the eleven disciples were at the table. He appeared to them and reproached them because they had not believed those who had seen him after he was raised from the dead.

Then he said to them: 'Go forth to every part of the world, and proclaim the good news to the whole creation. Those who believe it and receive baptism will find salvation; those who do not believe will be condemned, Faith will bring with it these miracles: believers will cast out devils in my name and speak in strange tongues; if they handle snakes or drink any deadly poison, they will come to no harm; and the sick on whom they lay their hands will recover.'

So after talking with them the Lord Jesus was taken up into heaven, and he took his seat at the right hand of God.”

Flower Festival. June 16th -18th 2017

Friday 16th 7.00pm Opening Reception. Tickets £5

Saturday 17th Church Open from 9.00am until 5.00pm

Sunday 18th Parish Eucharist 10.00am. Church Open 12.00noon until 5.00pm

Dates.

11th Archdeacons Visitation. St Briavels

13th Film Night. M

14th Christian Aid week begins

16th Soup Lunch Fir Cottage 12.00noon

20th Big Brekkie Forest gate Church

25th Ascension Day. 7.00pm Solemn Eucharist. M

The Diocesan Messenger,

The Messenger, April 2017

Message from the Revd Canon Dr Andrew Braddock Director of Mission and Ministry in the Diocese of Gloucester

They are unreliable witnesses.' That is how some of Jesus' disciples dismissed the news brought by Mary, Joanna and other women that Jesus' tomb was empty and that he was risen. Indeed Luke's Gospel tells us that the women's message seemed to the other disciples to be no more than an idle tale, and they did not believe them.'

Yet it was to these women that God gave the Easter message that Jesus is risen. It was these 'unreliable witnesses', so easily dismissed by the other disciples, that were the first to announce that God was doing a new and transforming thing.

These women remind us of two things. First, that God will often enable new beginnings to be led from surprising places. As a church we need to create space and opportunities for fresh leadership and insights to challenge our perceptions and help us see anew what God may be bringing to birth. Secondly, leadership is not just about roles and authority. It is also about influence – leading by example. That's what the women who followed Jesus did as they simply went out to share what they had seen and heard. In so doing they became the first witnesses to the resurrection, becoming messengers and participants in God's transformation of death and loss into the gift of life now and eternally. That's the kind of leadership and witness we are all called to share in, not simply in the church, but in the world.

God calls each one of us

The Revd Pauline Godfrey, Discipleship and Vocations Officer in the Diocese of Gloucester talks about recognising God's call

Who me? No, I know the last person God would call. Having been brought up in a church

tradition that was uncomfortable with women as leaders I, like so many women before me, heard the call of God and tried to get *others* to follow it. The fact that God didn't differentiate took some learning. God calls each one of us.

First of all he calls us into a relationship but then he calls us to work with him to build the kingdom wherever we are in our daily lives, in everything we do. Some of us don't think that what we do or who we are is special enough for God's call. But God calls the weak and the strong, men and women, the young and the old.

In that calling God also calls some of us to work for him in ministries specific to the church to be deacons, priests or readers. Women today still often feel that God might not be able to use them in these roles.

Perhaps you know of a woman whom God is clearly calling to ministry, or perhaps God is calling you? Don't be afraid to encourage them to explore or ask that question Who me?

Young Women: God's Calling will take place on 18 November 2017. Contact Pauline on pgodfrey@glosdioc.org.uk or 01452 835548.

Events and training

R Friday 5 May, 6.30pm to 8pm

Desert Island Discs

St Mary The Virgin, Berkeley GL13 9BN

Join BBC Radio Gloucestershire presenter Mark Cummings for his selection of music and chat followed by a selection of puddings. Tickets £5 including dessert and tea or coffee. Proceeds to be shared between St Mary's and the Stroud Food Bank. Call Ann or Chris Smith on 01453 511055 or events@stmarys-berkeley.co.uk

Saturday 20 May, 6.30 for 7.30pm

Out of the Ashes and the Beacon Gospel Choir

St Philip and St James, Hucclecote, GL3 3NS

Tickets £5 including light refreshments. 01452 372177
stpandstj.hucc@mail.com Funds shared between St Philip and St James and Compassion.

Monday 22 May, 7.30pm

The Names and Naming of God have we got it all wrong?

**Room TC001, Francis Close Hall Campus, University of
Gloucestershire, Swindon Road, Cheltenham GL50 4AZ**

Professor Janet Soskice, Chair of the Faculty of Divinity, University of Cambridge. Can God be named? What is involved in the practice of naming God? Can modern Christians recover a tradition of piety around the names and the naming of God that is suited to our times and consistent with the Biblical

account? Free email humanities@glos.ac.uk to reserve your place or book <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/icbi-annual-lecture-tickets-29325138278>

Have your say

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