



The Parish of  
**Mitcheldean and Abenhall**

# Parish News

September 2016



*Michaelmas*

## **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 and Friday **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)**

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This time of year brings two celebrations into view. The 1<sup>st</sup> is our parish Patronal festival, both our churches are dedicated to St Michael and there is even evidence that Abenhall also used to add 'and all angels' to its dedication. St Michael and his feathered friends are celebrated on September 29<sup>th</sup> each year. Although I and the rest of the diocesan clergy are away on a conference on the actual day, we will be celebrating St Michael as our patron saint on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> September. There will be a festival Eucharist at Mitcheldean at 10.00am and Sung Evensong at Abenhall at 3.00pm. Patronal festivals are not just about the saint in question but also about the life of the church. It is a bit like our parish birthday celebration. You are all invited and we hope you will make every effort to come along. It won't be the same with out you.

The second celebration is of course harvest Thanksgiving, which this year falls on Sunday October 2<sup>nd</sup> . We have a family service in the Morning at Mitcheldean and Holy Communion at Abenhall at 3.00pm. We are also going to have a harvest Lunch starting at 12.00noon tickets £4 each are available now. And although I know you don't like to commit we do need numbers in advance to be fare to those catering.

Although harvest is no longer the celebration it used to be it is redolent with memories of childhood and school songs, and loaves of bread shaped like sheaves, so don't miss the opportunity to come and have some warm memories kindled.

Work on the church roof and tower at Mitcheldean made very good progress over the summer and most of the planned works should be finished by the time you read this. However more serious issues were discovered with the spire which is going to mean again dismantling the top 10ft. Cash flow (we don;t have any) means we are not able to do the work this year meaning I'm afraid that we are having to wait even longer before we can hear the bells ringing again.

The work so far has mostly (with the exception of VAT and professional fees) been covered by a grant from the Listed Place of Worship roof repair fund. The new works will require further fund raising and grant applications. Please keep the financial health of your churches in your prayers.

David

## VARIETY SHOW RETURNS TO MITCHELDEAN !!

The Forest of Dean branch of Muscular Dystrophy UK, is delighted to announce that their 2016 Charity Variety Show will be held on Sat Oct 15<sup>th</sup> from 7.30pm at Xerox Club Mitcheldean . The line up includes- dancing to the well known and popular duo Which Ones Gerry , Magic from Miraculous Magic, comedy from the Two Tommys ( Tommy Cooper meets Tom Jones !! ) , vocals from Jess Burton, Mandy Godding's Theatre Arts Dancers, an astounding Mind Reader and special guests , the sensational Syren and Mirage dance groups , who perform anything from Gypsy themes to belly dancing !!

Tickets are on sale now , last year we had to turn people away so you are advised to get them early .!! They are available from me or in Mitcheldean Library .

The cost is only £10 for a full evenings entertainment !!

Food will be available and there will be a raffle

### Daily Bible readings:

September.

1<sup>st</sup> Mark 14. 43-72

2<sup>nd</sup> Mark 15. 1-15

3<sup>rd</sup> Mark 15 16-32

**4<sup>th</sup> Luke 14. 25-32**

5<sup>th</sup> Mark 15. 33- 47

6<sup>th</sup> Mark 16. 1-8

7<sup>th</sup> Mark 16. 9-end

8<sup>th</sup> Exodus 1.

9<sup>th</sup> Exodus 2.

10<sup>th</sup> Exodus 3.

**11<sup>th</sup> Luke 15. 1-10**

12<sup>th</sup> Exodus 4.

13<sup>th</sup> Exodus 5.

**14<sup>th</sup> John 3. 13-17**

15<sup>th</sup> Exodus 6.

16<sup>th</sup> Exodus 7.

17<sup>th</sup> Exodus 8. 1-19

**18<sup>th</sup> Luke 16. 1-13**

19<sup>th</sup> Exodus 8. 20-32

20<sup>th</sup> Exodus

16<sup>th</sup> Exodus 7.

17<sup>th</sup> Exodus 8. 1-19

**18<sup>th</sup> Luke 16. 1-13**

19<sup>th</sup> Exodus 8. 20-32

20<sup>th</sup> Exodus 9. 1-26

**21<sup>st</sup> Matthew 9.9-13**

22<sup>nd</sup> Exodus 9. 27-35

23<sup>rd</sup> Exodus 10. 1-20

24<sup>th</sup> Exodus 10. 20-29

**25<sup>th</sup> Luke 16. 19-end**

26<sup>th</sup> Exodus 11.

27<sup>th</sup> Exodus 12. 1-20

28<sup>th</sup> Exodus 12. 21-36

**29<sup>th</sup> John 1. 47-end**

30<sup>th</sup> Exodus 12. 37-51

**Dates.**

September 15<sup>th</sup> Magazine deadline

September 24<sup>th</sup> 10.00am Jumble sale Mitcheldean

September 25<sup>th</sup> Patronal Festival

September 28<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> Diocesan Clergy Conference.

October 2<sup>nd</sup> Harvest Thanksgiving

8.30am Holy Communion

10.00am Family Service

12.00noon Lunch

3.00pm Holy Communion

**Morning Prayer.**

You may have noticed that Morning prayer has crept into the weekly list of services . This is open to any one who wants to come along, either regularly or as the spirit moves you. Morning prayer includes some set canticles a psalm and a bible reading as well as time for prayers for the concerns and needs of the day. It usually lasts about 15 minutes.

You are welcome to join us Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday at 9.00am although keep an eye on the pew sheet for times as Friday might have to move to 8.45am in the school term.

**Ride and stride:**

Calling all cyclists and walkers. The Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust are holding their annual 'Ride and Stride' Event on Saturday 10th September. We are invited to raise money, not only for this very worthwhile organisation -(We have received over £10,000) but also ourselves. We could have a gentle walk to Abenhall Church and they could walk to us, allowing for a good chat at some point. Some could shamble around the Churchyard! some could help to provide the drinks, snacks and a warm welcome but most of all, we should all get involved. They need your support, we need your help so please - get active, sponsor and do your bit this time .

Pam Martin

## **The Diocesan Messenger,**

### **Action for refugees,**

by the Revd Cate Williams, Mission and Evangelism Officer

Over the past year there has been a strong expression of interest from around the Diocese in understanding how best to help refugee families coming to England. Lots of people have been involved in practical tasks, such as painting houses for new arrivals or donating furniture. To date, eleven families have arrived in Gloucestershire. I am delighted to report that the government has recently launched a scheme that will enable a community to “sponsor” the welcome of a refugee family into their local community. The scheme has been welcomed by Archbishop Justin Welby.

Churches, in partnership with their wider community, or in partnership with another church and community, are being encouraged to consider whether they can offer this support for a family. It is a significant commitment in both time and money (approximately £10k) which shouldn't be underestimated, but is a real possibility for any group that sees this as a significant expression of their Christian discipleship. The aim is to enable a good welcome and stable start for families coming to England until the state is able to provide long term security. It is also important to put in place appropriate, qualified support for these families, which is why we are working locally with GARAS (Gloucestershire Action for Refugees and Asylum Seekers) on this initiative.

Secondly the Children's Society are encouraging us to think about how to be inclusive communities in ways that enable people to feel truly welcomed and at home within their new locality. Building inclusive local community is a recurring theme in my work – if we can learn how to draw on spiritual resources in God to break down the barriers that divide us, that has huge potential for the thriving of local communities, and the wellbeing of individuals. It also is a fabulous demonstration of the difference that faith can have in our lives.

Thirdly, Christian Aid is encouraging us to 'Change the Story' that is being told about asylum seekers in our nation. If you have a positive story to tell, big or small, please make sure it is told in the media. It really does have potential for changing attitudes in our local communities.

Links for all three campaigns as well as GARAS's suggestions for how people might help are available on the diocesan website

[www.gloucester.anglican.org/church-outreach/social-action/refugee-action](http://www.gloucester.anglican.org/church-outreach/social-action/refugee-action)

## **Archdeacon Robert to be new Bishop of Tewkesbury**

The Ven Robert Springett will be ordained and consecrated as Bishop of Tewkesbury by the Archbishop of Canterbury on the morning of 30 November at Canterbury Cathedral. He will also have an official service of welcome in the Diocese on Sunday 11 December in Gloucester Cathedral and all are welcome to come along and support him as he starts this new ministry.

The role of the Bishop of Tewkesbury covers the whole Diocese of Gloucester. In practice, this means that he will act as the assistant bishop for the Church of England in and around Gloucestershire, working alongside Bishop Rachel.

Robert has been the Archdeacon of Cheltenham since April 2010, but has also held a wider role locally and nationally over the past six years. Locally these include being the Chair of the Diocesan Board of Education, a Trustee of All Saints Academy and a member of the Council of the University of Gloucester. Nationally Robert is a Bishop's Advisor for the Church on the selection of men and women for ordination and a member of the National Archdeacons Forum.

Robert said: "I am deeply honoured and humbled to have been invited to be the next Bishop of Tewkesbury. This is such an exciting time for the Diocese of Gloucester as we renew our vision and focus our efforts afresh on sharing the good news of Jesus Christ through our parishes, schools, fresh expressions and chaplaincies."

## **The Reverend Simon Mason New Area Dean**

As the parish news goes to press we have just heard that Fr Simon Mason Incumbent in Newent is to be the next area dean of the severn vale deanery.

## **Events and training**

### **Bristol Christian Singles Group**

Monthly drinks in pubs around Bristol, pub quizzes, walks, cycles, lunch and coffee meet ups, ceilidhs and cinema trips. For more details or to join <http://tinyurl.com/SingleChristiansBristol>

**Sunday 11 September, 3pm Organ recital by Huw Williams**, (Director of Music at Her Majesty's Chapel Royal, St James's Palace). St Paul's, Whiteshill. Tickets £10 including tea). Tickets from Christine Pearce, Church Office, the Shambles, Stroud, GL5 1AP, 01453 759099, [office@stroudcmt.plus.com](mailto:office@stroudcmt.plus.com)

### **Thursday 15 September, 7.30pm Pamoja Gospel choir**

Salvation Army Community Church, Bath Road, Cheltenham. New Gospel choir raising money for local charities and welcoming new members. For more details and contacts visit [www.pamojachoir.com](http://www.pamojachoir.com)

### **Sunday 18 September, 3pm Family fun and music from Gloucester Brass.**

St Paul and St Stephens Church, Stroud Road, Gloucester. Tombola, raffle, refreshments. Free entry, donations in aid of Footsteps Counselling and Care.

# ROTAS

HOW TO COPE IF YOU ARE ALLOCATED MORE THAN ONE DUTY

