

Parish News

Benefice Sharpness, Purton, Brookend and Slimbridge,



St Andrew's Church, Sharpness



St John's Church, Purton



St John's Church, Slimbridge

Interregnum Issue

Edition 3 November 2022

November 2022 - 'Interregnum 3rd edition' Parish News:

Instead of the term Interregnum, I have learnt recently that the situation is more likely to be referred to as being 'In VACANCY'.

As of this time, I can only report that we seem not to be much further forward of knowing what is likely to happen for us here in Slimbridge but I hasten to say, there were a few rumblings at the third Wotton Deanery Strategy Plan meeting I attended this last Saturday. I definitely detected signs that things are beginning to move on the home front, however not enough information as yet to report further. As soon as I get any further information on the vacancy situation I shall indeed let you know, as a favourite saying of Revd. Bill Boone was to say 'Keep Calm, keep going!'

On that point, despite relentless efforts, I have not been able to date to secure visiting Priests for a couple of services however as yet December services will be put in the next edition of the Parish News. We are doing our level best but this may mean that some of our regular services in our Benefice may not take place if cover is not available. Having said that, we have been asked if we are short of someone to take a service that we join with our partner churches within our Benefice. This happened last Sunday when we joined the congregation at St Andrews Church, Sharpness, it was quite well attended, Revd. Mary presided despite that she was concerned about her parents who at this point in time, are in need of help so bearing in mind travelling to and fro Staffordshire, she has done remarkably well so thank you Mary, at times we must put family first. On the plus side, I am thankful to Stilman Davis (*our Lay reader*) who again has been very busy covering as many services in the Benefice as possible. He too has things besides church activities therefore we cannot assume his time is ours to do as we want. As for me, I am, at present in the thankful position that I do not have too many family members living nearby however, I do have a sister who lives in Spain and I have been told recently that she is now suffering from dementia and living in a care home. I would very much like to take some time off in the not too distant future to go out to pay her a visit.

Finally, you will note that as requested, I have provided a much larger print of the services overleaf for November.

*David Carrington, Church Warden-
St John the Evangelist Church Slimbridge.*

Benefice Church Services during vacancy:

November 22			
Sunday	Purton	Sharpness	Slimbridge
1 st Sunday 6th	9.30am Morning Prayer: Led by Stilman	11am Morning Prayer: Led by Stilman	9am *BCP Prayer Led by David 10am Communion led by Mary
2 nd Sunday 13th <i>(Remembrance Day)</i>	9.30 am Led by Margaret Price	No Sunday Service at Sharpness (A short service of Remembrance with Wreath laying will take place at Sharpness on Tuesday 15th – 10.45am -11.15am – Mary)	10am Remembrance day Led by David 3pm Dedication service of three War Memorial Head stones by Area Dean Revd. David Russell
3 rd Sunday 20th	9.30 am Morning Prayer Led by Mary	11 am Family Communion Led by Mary	10am Family Service, led by David
4 th Sunday 27th Advent 1	No Service here today	10am Benefice Service led by Archdeacon Hilary Dawson	No Service here today

*BCP [Book of Common Prayer]

Saturday Morning Prayer - St Johns Church Slimbridge

Morning Prayer is held every Saturday morning at 9am – 9-30am.

The service is said and is taken from ‘Common Worship - Daily Prayer’

The service takes place in the Chancel.

Please feel free to join us, all are welcome.

Benefice Ministry Team:

Community Chaplain

Rev Mary Tucker

Hinton Cottage, Hinton (01453) 811 105

E mail: marycountry12@gmail.com

Licensed Reader

Stilman Davis

Orchard Lea, Churchend, Slimbridge (01453 890 783)

E mail: stilman.davis@tolutin.co.uk

Worship Leader (*Slimbridge*)

David Carrington

8 Lancelot Court, Churchend, Slimbridge (01453 890 031)

E mail: davidcarrington725@gmail.com

Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals: In the first instance, during the interregnum please contact Church Warden David Carrington, details as above.

Benefice - Parish News:

Church Wardens: Mr David Carrington (*Slimbridge*) (*Details as above*)

Mrs Sue Gibson (*Slimbridge*) May Cottage, Shepherds Patch. 01453 890 820

Email sue.gibson931@gmail.com

Mrs Margaret Price (*Verger at Purton*) The Mill House, Purton. 01453 811 250

Parochial Church Council Officers:

Sharpness with Purton: Contact Revd. Mary Tucker

Slimbridge: Pamela Storey (Secretary) The White Lion, Bristol Road, Cambridge.

E mail: pamelastorey@btinternet.com

Jill Joyce (Treasurer) Fieldview, St Johns Road, Slimbridge

E mail: joyce726@btinternet.com

An interesting profile including her missions of our very own Bishop Rachel

Bishop Rachel was consecrated as the 41st Bishop of Gloucester at Canterbury Cathedral in July 2015 and formally began her new role in September 2015. She entered the House of Lords in October 2015.

She has made history with a number of firsts: When she became the first female diocesan bishop in the Church of England and when she became the first female bishop in the House of Lords.



Bishop Rachel was brought up in Hertfordshire and was educated at Broxbourne School. She trained as a Speech and Language Therapist at Reading University where she gained a BA in Linguistics and Language Pathology. She worked as a Paediatric Speech and Language Therapist within the NHS and served on the Child Development Team at the Royal Free Hospital before becoming the Clinical Manager for Paediatric Speech and Language Therapists in Health Centres across three north London health authorities.

The Right Revd Rachel Treweek began her life in ordained ministry in 1994, after training at Wycliffe Hall in Oxford. She served her title at St George & All Saints, Tufnell Park before becoming Vicar of St James the Less, Bethnal Green in 1999. During her time in Bethnal Green she also served as 'Continuing Ministration Education Officer' [CME] and Bishop's Visitor in the Stepney Area. She was appointed as Archdeacon of Northolt in 2006, serving in that role for five years, before becoming Archdeacon of Hackney in July 2011.

Benefice - Parish News:

Bishop Rachel is a triple *Alumna of Windsor Leadership having participated on the SLP (2016), Emerging Leaders programme (2005) and Developing Leaders programme (2008).

During her time as the Bishop of Gloucester, she has launched two nationally and internationally recognised campaigns *Liedentity* and *Fighting for Women's Justice*.

The ****Liedentity** campaign was launched in 2016 and raises awareness of body image anxiety in young people and the pressures they face through social media, TV and advertising to look a certain way, changing the message that 'who you are, is all about how you look'.

With a keen interest in gender justice and a particular passion for vulnerable girls and women she launched the campaign '*Fighting for Women's Justice* in 2017. The campaign aims to change the women's justice system and raise awareness of the incredible work that takes place through Women's Centres across the country, supporting the most vulnerable women in our communities.

Her role in the House of Lords includes being the Anglican Bishop for HM Prisons in England and Wales and she is a member of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Women in the Penal System. In addition she holds a number of positions across a wide range of voluntary and statutory organisations, which include being President of the Nelson Trust, a Patron of both the Prison Fellowship and The Welcome Directory and an Ambassador for the Christian charity Restored.

Her first book 'Encounters' was published in 2020 and a series of reflections linking Gospel encounters between Jesus Christ and those he met, with people and places in her own personal journey with God.

*Alumna of Windsor? - ****Liedentity** See below

***Alumna of Windsor?** Emma Fitzgerald (CEO – Puma Energy) Writes: -

As a triple alumna of Windsor Leadership I have really valued the opportunity to share my leadership challenges with an incredibly diverse peer group at several crucial stages in my career. Each time I have come away re-energised by the experience with a range of fresh perspectives and renewed confidence to maximise my personal impact as a leader. We specialise in providing experience-led development programmes for senior leaders, at Windsor Castle. The programmes focus on facilitated learning in a peer-to-peer environment. We challenge leaders to think differently, explore their own leadership style and consider the wider impact of their leadership.

****Liedentity**

Who you are, is more than how you look.

60% of girls opt-out of everyday activities because of how they think they look. Around half of adolescent boys are unhappy with their bodies. (Stats via UWE - Dove research).

Young people's happiness is at its lowest since 2010. Increasingly, many young people are sourcing their identities from social media and advertising, and in the process losing their self-esteem, which is one of the reasons why our campaign is called liedentity.

Benefice - Parish News:

Bishop Rachel said, "I long for every young person to discover their worth as a unique individual created in the image of God and to find happiness as they go on becoming who they have been created to be.

"We are bombarded with messages of what the 'perfect body image' is, and for many this undermines true identity. We know that for these young people having negative thoughts about how they look can impact on their entire life, causing deep unhappiness and contributing to poor mental health."

Church Announcements:

Funeral: 28th October St Johns Church - Nancy Anne Walker

[Nancy was a very popular member of our church for many years. One of her favourite activities was a passion to help with the flower arranging in church before she moved to Dursley. At her funeral one of her great grandchildren Arthur, played a piece on the piano and when asked about his Granny he said she was full of Grace!]

Benefice News:

Slimbridge - St John the Evangelist Church

Heritage / Tower Tours:

According to forecasts, the weather was always going to be doubtful but thankfully held off throughout the afternoon on both days. Over the weekend of 22-23rd October, we had many visitors who enjoyed not only a master class on the history of the many ancient tomb stones in our church yard led by our resident historian Pamela Storey but quite a few children took part in the heritage trail and I-Spy hunts were available all week of half term that Pamela had also set up,

Tower Tours:

Talk: A special thanks for the expert instruction given by Andrew Ward (*From Wotton Under Edge*) who spoke enthusiastically about the way that bells operate when they are being rung, Being such an enthusiast, Andrew even had a laptop with a programme showing just how the bells follow the various changes that can be achieved by experienced Bell-Ringers' and it must be said, helped so immensely with the scale down model of just what happens when you pull down on the bell rope, so expertly made by James Joynson (*a technician employed by Renishaw's from Wotton Under Edge, also a keen bell ringer*) and we are so fortunate that he has also been very instrumental in the maintenance of our Bell Tower with the help of Andrew and Martin Dibley making sure that everything in the tower was safe to use throughout the weekend..

Climbing the Tower: Andrew (*together with his helpers on the weekend*), certainly gave much delight to many who took advantage of the event climbing the church tower. Some decided 96 steps may be a bit too much but I think overall, many were thrilled to undertake this activity, Cameras were very active and on the return to terra firma, we even managed a certificate for the successful climbers. Thanks also to several members of our village community for coming together to help Andrew

Benefice - Parish News:

oversee the visitors wishing to climb the tower. Over 40 people made the ascent.

Refreshments:

Our team of lady supporters made sure we had refreshments throughout the two days, so a big thank you and to all who contributed towards to many lovely cakes and tarts for us to enjoy. Overall just over £200 pounds was donated by those who attended towards the upkeep of this Grade 1 listed Church building.

Thank you to all who supported the effort and we hope, perhaps in the spring to repeat tower tours when the weather will be a little kinder.

Forthcoming events:

Advent 2022

The Advent season starts as the final countdown to Christmas day and many children will have Advent Calendars to help them count the days. It's also a really special time for the church.

Starting on **November 27th** will allow all four Sundays before Christmas to be filled with services that will help those celebrating to fully learn the stories that are important to this season.

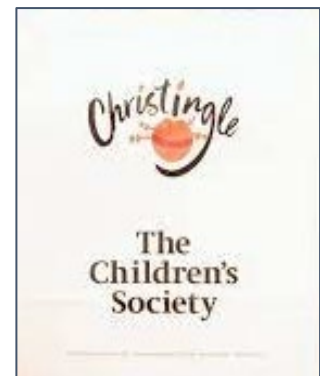
In our Benefice, we shall celebrate Advent on Sunday 27th November with Archdeacon Hilary Dawson presiding at this service, to be held at St Andrews Church Sharpness at 10am (*See Services for November and December*)

3rd December: Christmas Market:

Our Christmas Market Coffee Morning is in aid of St Johns Church, & Gloucester Night Shelter. If you would like to rent a table at £15, Please ring Pat Cope on **01453 890517**

24th December; The Christingle Service will go ahead based on the Children's Society service as in previous years on Christmas Eve - starting at 4pm.

Please do bring your children, Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren! along for this wonderful celebration. All donations will be sent to The Children's Society to help support their valuable work they undertake to do for children at risk. For information on their work, please link up with their web site. Just log in 'The Children's Society'



Church Rotas:

The interregnum vacancy should not interrupt the valuable work done in keeping our three Benefice Churches clean, flowers and the refreshments rotas. Please continue as normal, your efforts are truly appreciated. Should you wish to help, please see page 3 'Benefice Ministry team to offer any help, for Slimbridge contacts see below:

- Church cleaning - Gill Roberts Tel: 01453 547 365 –
- Flower arranging - Carole Jeffes Tel: 01453 890 268 –
- Refreshments: - Contact either Pamela Storey or Pat Cope.

Slimbridge book - Bonus Ball winners for October:

Bonus Ball draw: October 2022		
Date	Winning number	Bonus Ball winner
1 st October	21	Jerry Ceasar
8 th October	51	Tricia Carrington & Sarah Gothard
15 th October	39	Helen Stone & Amanda James
22 nd October	34	Carole Jeffes & Hilary Kerr

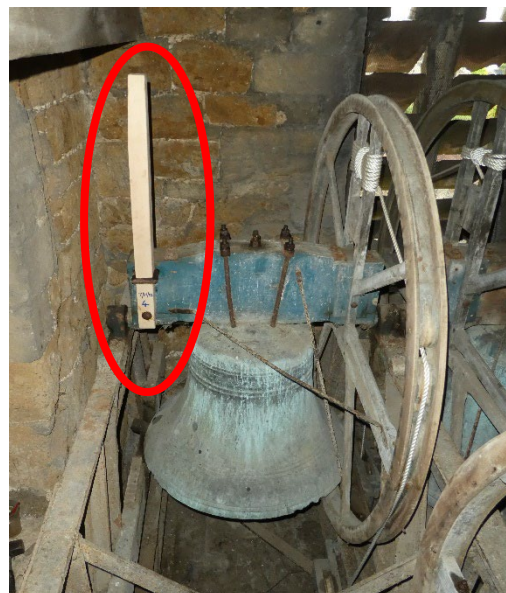
Both sets of numbers are once again fully allocated. For anyone who is interested, there is a complete list of winners on the noticeboard inside Slimbridge church.

Organiser Ros Davies contact number: 07481 018 988

St Andrews Church Bonus Ball: *As a reminder, Lesley Jenkins is starting up the Bonus Ball again this November, she says that people will keep their original numbers. To contact Lesley, please send her an email as follows: yeomanso2hibbs@gmail.com*

News from the bell tower:

Following on from last month's news of the broken stay on the 2nd bell, I am pleased to report that all the stays are now in good order. It was a combined effort. Andrew Ward made all the necessary measurements. Tower Captain, Huvin Thompson coordinated the repairs. Alan 'Bins' Smith crafted three new stays in ash – for the 2nd, 3rd and 4th. Andrew and Martin Dibley worked hard to fit them, and I acted as health and safety, and supplier backup of tools and 2-way radios. All the work was completed within two weeks of the



Benefice - Parish News:

stay being broken, just in time for the Friday night practice. Now that the bells are being used more regularly a more detailed survey to help plan future servicing and repair needs is being considered. Also, with increased use there is a requirement to re-rope the Ellacombe chimes. This is why they have been silent for a few weeks.

On Saturday 1 October a visiting band of ringers from Sittingbourne in Kent enjoyed ringing the bells. Their visit coinciding with our first Saturday of the month coffee morning and they enjoyed some much welcomed refreshment before going on to ring at another tower in the district.

For the Heritage weekend, Andrew Ward labelled all the bells with the dates they were cast along with their pitch and weight. He was also on hand to explain how the bells are rung and provided a musical background with a ringing simulator on his laptop. Hopefully he will have inspired someone to take up ringing at some point in the future.

Ros Davies

Harvest Festival:

Church: Thank you for all those who donated towards our harvest festival including some really beautiful flower displays starting with a real harvest display in the south porch as you entered the church. (See photo) All donated food items were taken to the Food Bank who received them with many thanks.

School: Mr James Taylor, [*The new head teacher of Slimbridge School*] together with his staff, came with the whole school on 20th October to hold their harvest festival service in church. It was such a delight to have our church full to standing room only with so many children, teaching staff, parents and grandparents who supported the event despite the awful weather as the heavens opened on that particular day just as the school children walked down from school to church. There was no sign of any discomfort when the children started introducing their harvest service as I think every single child from reception up to year 6 without exception, gave every ounce of their energy so enthusiastically making it such a great success. Much enjoyed by all present. Slimbridge can justifiably feel proud of doing their bit towards helping those less fortunate than ourselves. Thank You!



Note: Remembrance Sunday 13th November: Slimbridge

Two times to note:

At 10 am on Remembrance Day **Sunday 13th November**, this service will go ahead attended by the **RBL** Slimbridge Branch, Civic representatives from the Parish Council, Slimbridge Scouts and other members of the community who plan to attend. The two minutes silence will be observed at the War memorial at 11am by those in attendance.

At 3pm, there will be **second service** to dedicate the three new memorial headstones for:

Private James Williams of Gossington,
Samuel Redding of Cambridge Bristol Road, and
George Shipway of Slimbridge Street.

Why now? The Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) did not support the application for George Shipway to have a CWGC headstone as he died from his injuries well after the cut-off date as recognised by the CWGC after the end of WWI. However, driven by then Chairman Den Bannister, our Slimbridge History Society made it their aim to ensure that all three of the fallen from Slimbridge have been properly recognised which, after much research and intensive fund raising then ensued we are pleased that now all three soldiers now have the proper CWGC head stone erected in the church graveyard. Now in place, a request from our historian Pamela Storey that these memorials should be properly dedicated, the Wotton Deanery Area Dean, Revd. David Russell has agreed to undertake to do this on the afternoon of November 13th at 3 pm. This short service, (*starting in church*) will then continue outside into the church graveyard attended by local RBL members together with the Slimbridge Standard Bearer. We thank the Slimbridge history society for their hours of research and determination to get these men the recognition by the CWGC they so richly deserve for their sacrifice.

Coffee Mornings:

Coffee mornings are held in the Village Hall on the first Saturday of the month from 10.30am – 12 noon. Coffee, cakes and chatter plus produce stall with donated homemade cakes and home grown produce all help in raising funds for our nominated charities. This year they have helped to contribute to very worthwhile organisations as listed below so far:

- 2nd April: Ukraine Crisis appeal;
- 3rd May: Slimbridge Junior Cricket team;
- 4th June: Jubilee Coffee morning benefitting Slimbridge Primary School;
- 2nd July: Guide Dogs Organisation UK;
- 6th August: St John's Church, Slimbridge;

Benefice - Parish News:

- 3rd September: MND (Motor Neurone Disease)
- 1st October: Great Western Air Ambulance;

If you haven't been along so far, please look in to see just how much of a friendly bunch of lovely people turn up to support this initiative for a natter over a cup of tea or coffee. A great opportunity to socialise and catch up with what is going on in the village.

The remaining coffee mornings this year will raise funds as follows:

- 5th November: Scotty's Little Soldiers – Service Dependants;
- 3rd December: a Christmas Market to support St John's Church, Slimbridge and Gloucester Night Shelter.

St Andrews Church Sharpness: - News

We are thrilled that the Archdeacon Hilary Dawson, is to take a service on Sunday 27th November, please note this and do your best to attend. I am sure she will be able to answer some of your questions. After the service there will be light refreshments available.

See note on St Andrews Bonus Ball on page 8

News: St John the Evangelist Church, Purton:

We thank Mary, Stilman and Margaret for keeping services going during this vacancy. We hope that soon we shall know what plans there are in hand by the Area Dean Revd. David Russell and Archdeacon Hilary Dawson for future services.

This month we would like you to note that on Saturday November 26th we are having our Christmas Sale between 1.30pm and 3.30pm.

There will be Refreshments; Cakes; Books; Bric-a-brac; Tombola; Christmas Crafts and much more, everyone is welcome.

Further, during the interregnum (Vacancy), this time I thought this poem would be good for our thoughts:

A Poem sent in by Margaret Price [*Church Warden of Purton Church*]:

Sometimes, life's hard going

The way can seem so tough;
Yet our Saviour promises he'll give us strength;
Enough though the road ahead is hidden;
The good Lord knows the way;
He guides us and directs us,
Through each brand new day.
So remember as we journey;
We don't journey on our own,
Jesus walk besides us;
So we'll never walk alone.

Written by Amanda Jayne Langley

Out of Silence – Rev. Mary Tucker

Out of the Silence: an occasional version for a new era!! *The monthly journal of the journey of a Priest, Contemplative and Community Chaplain.*



Out of the Silence - an occasional version for a new era!!

What strange times these are none of us quite sure what's going to happen next though things, as I write, seem to be moving forward. All we can do is pray and not panic! I don't find that easy – but going about my normal tasks of taking services of various sorts, visiting people and doing what I call 'ministry by walking about' seems to be one of God's wonderful ways of calming me and helping me to reaffirm my trust in him. My morning silent sessions of prayer and Bible study are a real key – it's the time I bring to him (*often recording the process in my journals*) my fears and worries as well as praises and prayers for our current situation. And of course there is much else in my life which is healing and helpful – the following words from L. B. Cowman summing them up beautifully.

“God provides resting places as well as working places.

Rest, then, and be thankful when he brings you wearied, to a wayside well.”

Wednesday 27th September 2022

Always, always, home-coming is a joy and, keeping all but immediate things at bay for now, this is the best bit. Hotels are not built for people who rise at different times and need a quiet space, a silent hour alone with you, Lord, before others awake.

A cloudy sky split by early light low to the horizon mimics a rugged row of distant mountains, but nothing, creator God, can mimic the drama and beauty you have shared with us these last weeks. Our trip round the North coast of Scotland has been wonderful, awe-inspiring, breath-taking and, more than that, it was a re-awakening for both of us to what is truly important in life.

“O test and see that the Lord is good.” (*Psalms 34*)

Thursday 29th September 2022

Sorting dates for various services and funerals got a bit mixed up but any stress soon dissipated – there's stuff to do but I am determined not to over think or worry, there's stuff in the future but it will come when it comes and I need to continue to re-calibrate myself to trust in you, Lord, with the practicalities of life and ministry.

“O praise God in his holiness,
praise him in the firmament of his power,
praise him for his mighty acts, . . .
for he has indeed done great things for us.” Psalm 150 & 126

This morning thick cloud means that the dawn is approaching stealthily - one moment total blackness, the next with a distant twitter of an occasional bird – a deep, all-over, navy blue, lightening slowly through the spectrum without sound, fury or fuss – the eternal mystery and constancy of the universe.

“The Lord, the most mighty God, has spoken
and called the world from the rising of the sun to its setting.
Out of Zion, perfect in beauty, God shines forth . . . “

More next month
With love and many blessings
Mary Tucker

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Historical Snippets: From the archives at St Johns Church, Slimbridge.

Introduction: *Years ago, each of the local parish churches submitted their news to something called ‘The Parish Magazine’, contributors came from quite a large area including: Lower Cam; Coaley; Eastington; Frocester; North Nibley; Stinchcome; Frampton; Saul; Freetherne; Whitminster and *Slymbridge. It was printed for the cost of 2d [tuppence] per copy. Therefore, this item was found in the archive addition for Slymbridge dated– **November 1948**’. [**Slymbridge is the old fashioned spelling for Slimbridge*]*

St John the Evangelist Church, Slymbridge

Rector; Rev. W. H. Thomas, M.A. Church Wardens; Mr. J. Wherrett and Mr. W. P. Hill.

My dear People, **[November 1948]:**

Church Notices:

November:

- 1st ALL SAINTS DAY Holy Communion 7.15am
- 2nd ALL SOULS DAY Holy Communion 7.15am
- 6th Music festival Berkeley Parish Church; for choirs affiliated to the Royal School of Church Music. Combined Rehearsal at 2.30; tea at 4.45; Festival evensong at 6pm
Preacher, The Revd. Canon Gilpin, Gloucester. Sixteen members of our choir will be taking part.
- 7th Remembrance Sunday. Official Service in the Parish Church, 6.30pm.
- 17th Young Wives Group, 3pm. PCC meeting at the Rectory; 7.30pm.
- 19th Concert in the Church Hall; 7.30pm. Proceeds for Church Funds. The concert party is a Stroud one. There has not been a concert in the church hall for some time, so we hope this will be well patronised. See bills and prices and particulars later.
- 25th Mothers Union, 2.30, speaker Mrs M Vivian-Thomas, Cheltenham.
- 27th CHRISTMAS SALE. A sale of small goods suitable for Christmas Presents, in the church hall at 3pm.
- 28th (Sunday). Advent commences.
- 30th St Andrews Day, Apostle and Martyr. Holy Communion at 10am’

Benefice - Parish News:

December:

1st (Wednesday) CHRISTMAS WHIST DRIVE. This is the annual event many look forward to.

Other Notices:

The YOUTH CLUB meets EVERY TUESDAY evening in the Church Hall at 7 o'clock. I am glad to be able to say that the club is progressing much better now and functioning along better lines. Mr J Wherrett gives much time and thought to the organisation of Club evenings.

The FOLK AND COUNTRY DANCING CLASS is proving a wonderful success, as also is the GAY NINETIES CLUB. They take place on alternative Thursdays in the Church Hall.

GIFT. I beg to acknowledge with many thanks a gift of £7 from a member of our congregation, who wishes to remain anonymous, to help provide robes for the choir.

THE HARVEST THANKSGIVING COLLECTION this year amounted to £9 2s 6d, an increase on last year's amount. The Church Council decided that it should be equally divided between the Churchyard fund and the Church Extension Fund.

THE MORAL WELFARE COLLECTION amounted to £4; the collection for the NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND was £4. 1s. 9d, and the WHIST DRIVE, promoted by the Bell Ringers on behalf of the Bell Chamber, realised the sum of £7. 0s. 2d. We are very grateful to those who arranged these efforts and also to all who contributed in any way to these GOOD CAUSES.

CONGRATULATIONS and good wishes to Mr and Mrs P Cole (Miss Barbara Noad) on the occasion of their marriage. I am glad that we are not losing them (At least not yet) from the Parish.

CHURCH OFFICERS on duty – November 7th Messrs D Noad, J Gazzard; 14th J Brown, C Hill; 21st W Noad, T Hall; 28th H Hobbs, P Pegler.

LADIES ALTAR FLOWER GUILD – 6th Miss Pearce; 13th Mrs Tudor; 20th Mrs Whittard.

BRASSES Mrs Thomas.

CHILDRENS CORNER 6th M Timbrell; P Niblett; 13th V Cooper; R Bedgegood; 20th M Vellacott.

Your Rector and friend.

Rev. W. H. Thomas

Post script:

Please note that should you wish to view any of the archived records held at St John's Church Slimbridge, please contact either of the two Church Wardens the PCC secretary or indeed any member of the PCC who will, arrange for you to view, but sadly not to be taken away.

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Smile for a while:

A smile will make all the difference: A Poem by John Greenleaf Whittier called:

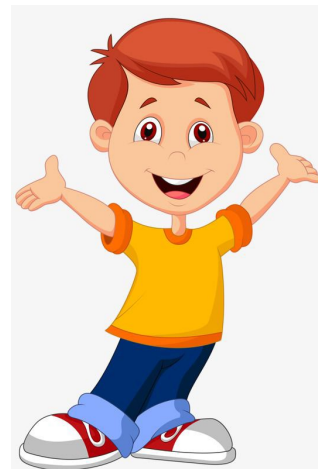
A smile

Smile is an art of living depends....
how do the way you smile;
Sometimes it presents the joy of the whole world,
Sometimes reveals your own heart-ache for a while.

Unlike the mourning one, do keep smiling at every hour;
Not only to enlighten the society,
but to flourish the garden of your mind
with a charming flower.

Don't ever let the essence go out of that flower
as it preserves the freshness of your soul,
and keeps the surroundings with all its glory and grace
Always very charming as a whole.

So do keep smiling at every hour you live,
to keep the flowers always bright and shining;
Cause smile is the origin of what
makes the whole world peaceful and loving.



An ode to Covid: *by Ann Lacy*

1 **There's a spiky little virus
That's got us in a panic
Boris isn't reassuring
Everything is manic.**

2 **Stay in, go out, don't mix
It's all in a muddle
Why can't I see my family
I just want a cuddle.**

3 **The scientists explain it
Not sure I understand
Together with the NHS
They have everything in hand.**

4 **Someone has the bright idea
To clap the NHS
Thursday nights we thank them
For sorting out the mess.**

5 **They come up with a substance
That's going in our arm
It zaps that pesky virus
So it can do no harm.**

6 **We eagerly await the call
To get the vaccine done
It seems I'm old and vulnerable
And I'm only 81.**

7 **Three jabs later
And we think we're done
Hang on! What's that?
OMICRON Not another one!**

8 **The year is 2022
Covid hasn't gone away
There are variants of variants
I think it's here to stay**

Poems: *If anyone would like to send me a poem or any other item, please do and I will fit it into the next Parish News **no later than Friday 25th November** to allow sufficient time to process for the next publication.
Thank you, ED.*

Historic November:

1 Nov.	1858	Following the bloody events of the Indian Mutiny Queen Victoria is proclaimed ruler of India, replacing the reign of the East India Company.
2 Nov.	1936	The world's first regular TV service was started by the British Broadcasting Corporation, an estimated 100 TV owners tuned in.
3 Nov.	1942	British Field Marshall Bernard Montgomery's troops break through the front line of Erwin Rommel's Africa Corps capturing 9000 prisoners.
4 Nov.	1843	The 5.5 metre statue of Lord Nelson was hauled to the top of its 60 metre column in Trafalgar Square, London.
5 Nov.	1605	Guy Fawkes is arrested beneath the House of Parliament as a plot to blow up England's King James I is uncovered.
6 Nov.	1429	Henry VI is crowned King of England.
7 Nov.	1917	Bolshevik Red Guards seize control of the Winter Palace and confirm Vladimir Ilyich Ulyanov (Lenin) as leader of Russia.
8 Nov.	1656	Birth of Edmond Halley, English astronomer and mathematician, best known for identifying the comet named after him.
9 Nov.	1953	Death of the flamboyant Welsh bard Dylan Thomas at the age of 39. His heavy drinking and wild living contributing to his early demise.
10 Nov.	1871	Henry Morton Stanley tracks down "missing" Scottish explorer and missionary David Livingstone to the shores of Lake Tanganyika.
11 Nov.	1918	After four years and 97 days the guns finally fell silent as the Great War ended. Around 9 million lives lost with a further 27 million injured.
12 Nov.	1035	Death of Canute, Danish King of England.
13 Nov.	1850	Birth of Scottish author Robert Louis Stevenson whose classic tales include Treasure Island, Kidnapped and Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde.
14 Nov.	1940	In one raid 449 German Luftwaffe bombers dropped 503 tons of bombs and 881 incendiaries onto the English City of Coventry.
15 Nov.	1968	The largest passenger liner in the world, Cunard's flagship Queen Elizabeth, docked in Southampton at the end of her last transatlantic voyage.
16 Nov.	1724	Highwayman Jack Sheppard is <u>hanged</u> at <u>Tyburn</u> , London in front of an estimated crowd of 200,000.
17 Nov.	1558	Death of England's first ruling Queen, Mary Tudor. Unpopular daughter of <u>Henry VIII</u> and Catherine of Aragon.
18 Nov.	1852	A massive state funeral for the <u>Duke of Wellington</u> is held in London.

19 Nov.	1620	The 180-ton wine ship Mayflower arrives at Cape Cod, America. It's passengers, 87 members of a Protestant sect – The Pilgrim Fathers.
20 Nov.	1947	Princess Elizabeth (Queen Elizabeth II) married her cousin Lieutenant Philip Mountbatten (Duke of Edinburgh) at Westminster Abbey .
21 Nov.	1695	Death of Henry Purcell, English composer and organist.
22 Nov.	1963	The world mourns at the news that President John F. Kennedy had been shot and killed in Dallas, Texas.
23 Nov.	1910	American-born Dr Hawley Harvey Crippen was hanged at Pentonville Prison in London after poisoning his wife and dismembering her body.
24 Nov.	1859	Charles Darwin publishes his book Origin of the Species
25 Nov.	1984	Band Aid rock stars gather at Sarm Studios in London to record "Do They Know It's Christmas", all proceeds to Ethiopian famine relief.
26 Nov.	1922	Archaeologist Howard Carter and his sponsor the Earl of Caernavon make a hole in the door and gaze into the tomb of Tutankhamun.
27 Nov.	1875	Britain buys shares worth £4 million (\$7 million) in the Suez Canal Company.
28 Nov.	1919	Nancy Astor is elected Member of Parliament for Plymouth, Devon , becoming Britain's first woman MP.
29 Nov.	1641	England's first newspaper is published.
30 Nov.	1936	One of London's best-loved landmarks, the Crystal Palace burned down. The huge glass building originally housed the Great Exhibition of 1851 .

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Sue's Garden Snippets for November

Autumn is the time for planting because the soil is still warm, which encourages plants to send out new roots before winter. From now until March is a good time to buy and plant bare root trees, cane fruit, shrubs and perennials. Not only will they become established sooner, but they are cheaper too. It is also worth looking for pots of herbaceous plants on the sale benches of garden centres and nurseries. They look promising, often without leaf growth visible, but will normally have a good root system inside the pot. They can also often be divided into two or more new plants, which makes them even better value for money.



Autumn is also a good time to lift, divide and replant fibrous-rooted perennials in your borders, such as Alchemilla (Lady's mantle), Nepeta (catmint) and Phlox. Dig up the whole plant, shake off the soil onto a piece of plastic or tarpaulin, separate the plant into three or more clumps making sure that each

Benefice - Parish News:

has at least three growth buds on the surface, and replant them about 12 inches apart. You should discard the centre of each clump, which will be old and weak.

When planting or re planting new plants, ensure that they are Exactly the same level in the ground as before. The most common source of plants failing to thrive or survive that I see when visiting gardens is from over-deep planting. This is the equivalent of ringbarking by rabbits, because soil piled against stems or trunks causes the bark to rot and the plant will eventually die.

Finally, if you want holly berries for Christmas, put stems in a bucket of water now in a cool, dark place such as a garage, and they will last for weeks.

Happy gardening. *Sue*



Sue Gibson School of Gardening

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For more information

May Cottage, Shepherd's Patch, Slimbridge

Or Call Sue Gibson on 01453 890820

www.iteachgardening.co.uk

**Notice: Slimbridge Scout Group:
30th Anniversary!**

**To all members past and present of
Slimbridge Scout Group.**



As a reminder to all those youngsters, (*many now married with their own family certainly most likely if they were one of the earlier beavers, cubs or scouts when we first set up the Slimbridge Scout Troop back in April 1992*) that we are holding a special 30 year anniversary afternoon.

We hope that you will come along to have a great time looking at all the memorabilia and photos from distant events and of course, catching up with your Scout Friends.

You may recall the many meetings we held in the Slimbridge School Canteen. We then moved into the School hall, then with permission from the Slimbridge Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust, we started to meet in the visitor rooms at the Trust. More recently we have been holding our meetings in the Village Hall but great news is that we will soon be able to meet in our very own Scout Headquarters when the fit-out is completed down at WWT. We really appreciate the dedicated team of volunteers who have been really busy these last few weeks and there is still much to do, e.g. getting a long trench dug before we can get connected to the electricity supply.

As many members have now moved away, please can the parents let their sons and daughters know of this epic event.

Our celebrations of both current and former Beavers, Cubs and Scouts will be held on: **Saturday 26th November from 2pm until 7pm in Slimbridge Village Hall**

I look forward to seeing as many past and present members if they can make it, so please **'Do your best'** to be there.

Skip Carrington
Founder and Group President

PS

Please pass this information onto former members that may be known to you.

Thankyou,

Royal British Legion – Slimbridge Branch



(Not to be confused with the Slimbridge Legion Social Club)

There has been a Royal British Legion Branch in Slimbridge since its inception when it moved from Cambridge, Bristol Road in 1951. It has a proud history of local men who fought in the two world wars and the Armistice Remembrance Day Service held at our village church each year.

Since then, many younger men and women have served their country in campaigns and now more than likely no longer active in the armed services. However, we are now calling on you to keep this tradition going here in Slimbridge. We are looking to encourage younger members now to keep this community based branch going.

*The current Chairman, Gordon King would welcome further enquiries from anyone who has a service background willing to come along to the quarterly Branch Member meetings held at the Slimbridge Legion Social Club in St Johns Road. There is to be an AGM early in December of this year. Give Gordon a call on **01453 890 717***



Parish News next month for December 2022

If you would like to submit an item for the December issue of the Parish News, please send in your item no later than: **Friday 25th November** email to:

davidcarrington725@gmail.com or call on 01453 890 031.

Written, printed & produced by Church Warden David Carrington during the Interregnum which commenced at the beginning of September 2022 following the retirement of our Vicar Revd. Bill Boon. Acknowledgements: Thank you to those editing this third edition of this Parish news. Lastly, thank you to those who contributed items in time for the first of the month.