

Parish News

St John the Evangelist Church, Slimbridge



February 2023

Vacancy Edition - 6

£1. Per copy

**Or ten pound a year*

(Suggested donation towards the cost of printing)

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Parish News February 2023 6th Edition

Our PCC met the new Area Dean Rev. Graham Stacey when he came along to explain how we move forward during this term of 'Vacancy' - *(A situation new to all of us)*

Members had an opportunity to ask him questions and I think we can truthfully say he kindly responded to each and every one of the questions that were put to him in full measure. Some answers were not what we were hoping for but he responded as the new saying goes. *'It is what it is'*

Therefore, having it being made clear where we stand, we can now look forward slightly more confidently in the way in which we need to plan our onward journey.

There were some disappointments, certainly help from the Deanery it would seem a scarce commodity as we are not the only Church in the Deanery to be in the same situation. However, now that we know where we stand, it will help us to do our level best to keep things going here at St Johns. Already we have planned our next PCC meeting on 21st February. We will discuss the suggestions and ideas promulgated By the Area Dean and explore all the possibilities of how we can move on. This is an opportunity for us to try new ways of working with the wider Parish and to strengthen the role of the Parish Church in the next few months. *(As the saying goes 'Keep calm, keep going')*.

In conclusion, I was very thankful for the support I received over the Christmas period when I came down with the flu followed by a rather persistent chest infection, too unwell to take part in the Christmas services. My disappointment was that not only had I helped to plan, but of course it is a special time for us all to praise the Lord. 'My get up and go just suddenly got up and went! Thank you to all those who stepped forward to help deliver and support the Christmas services.

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

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Slimbridge Church Services during February:

Sunday	
5th February <i>Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany</i>	9am BCP Service Led by Sue Gibson 10am Morning prayer led by Stilman Davis
12th February <i>Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany</i>	Morning Prayer Led by: Stilman Davis
19th February <i>Last Sunday after the Epiphany</i>	10am Communion led by: Rev'd. Canon Francis Wookey
26th February <i>First Sunday in Lent</i>	10am Morning Praise and Worship led by: David
Other Services	
Every Saturday	9.am – 9.30am Morning Prayer Please come along, it is open to all.
22 nd February	7.30 pm Lenten evening Prayer. Starting on Ash Wednesday February 22 nd then weekly throughout Lent until April 5 th .

Coffee Morning: Slimbridge Village Hall

First Saturday of every month: 10.30am until 12 noon

Light refreshment, homemade cakes for sale and produce stalls to tempt you, all proceeds go to nominated and local Charities.

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Ministry Team:

Area Dean for Wotton Deanery: Revd. Graham Stacey,
The Vicarage, Fairmead Road, Cam Pitch, Dursley GL11 5JX –
01453 709 859 email: graham@stbarts-camandcoaley.org.uk

Community Chaplain Revd. Mary Tucker, Hinton Cottage, Hinton
01453 811 105 email: marycountry12@gmail.com

Licensed Lay Reader: Stilman Davis Orchard Lea, Churchend,
Slimbridge. **01453 890 783** email: stilman.davis@tolutim.co.uk

Worship Leader: David Carrington 8 Lancelot Court, Churchend,
Slimbridge 01453 890 031 e mail: davidcarrington725@gmail.com

Church Contacts:

Church Warden: Mr David Carrington (*Slimbridge*) *Contact details as above.*

Please note: please contact David in the first instance for:
Baptisms, Weddings, and Funerals:

Church Warden: Mrs Sue Gibson, May Cottage, Shepherds Patch.
Slimbridge. **01453 890 820** email sue.gibson931@gmail.com

PCC Secretary: Pamela Storey, The White Lion, Bristol Road,
Cambridge. **01453 899 828** email: pamelastorey@btinternet.com

PCC Treasurer: Jill Joyce, Field view, St Johns Road,
Slimbridge. **07871 732 691** email: joyce762@btinternet.com

Organist: Mrs Ursula Toher, **07759 502 793**

Tower Captain: Huvin Thompson, St Johns Road,
Slimbridge **01453 890 469** email: Huvin.thompson@gmail.com

Bonus Ball Organiser: Ros Davies **07481 018 988**

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A message from Bishop Robert:

Following the departure of Canon Dr Andrew Braddock on 8th January 2023, for the next three months, alongside my ministry as Bishop of Tewkesbury, I will be the Interim Dean of the Cathedral as we await the arrival of our newly appointed Dean after Easter of Canon Andrew Zihni who takes up his ministry as Dean of Gloucester Cathedral soon after Easter.



Canon Andrew Zihni:

Andrew was born and grew up in Hong Kong, before moving to the UK with his family. He trained for ordination at St Stephen's House, Oxford, and was ordained Deacon in 2002 and Priest in 2003. He began his ordained ministry in the former mining town of Goldthorpe in South Yorkshire, before moving to St George's Chapel, Windsor, where he was a Minor Canon and School Chaplain. Andrew then moved to Southwark, where he was Assistant Director of Vocations in the Diocese of Southwark and Honorary Minor Canon at Southwark Cathedral before becoming Canon Precentor in January 2021. He was also a Priest Vicar at Westminster Abbey from 2018 to 2021.



A word from the scriptures:

1 Corinthians 12:1-11 (NIV)

Concerning Spiritual Gifts:

12 Now about the gifts of the Spirit, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. **2**You know that when you were pagans, somehow or other you were influenced and led astray to mute idols. **3**Therefore I want you to know that no one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, "Jesus be cursed," and no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit.

4There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. **5**There are different kinds of service, but the same

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Lord. ⁶ There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.

⁷ Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. ⁸ To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, ⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, ¹⁰ to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹ All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.

Out of the Silence Rev. Mary Tucker

Extracts from the journal of the journey of a Priest, Contemplative and Community Chaplain.



What moody folk we are! Or at least I am! One day up, another down, and not always a good reason for either. It's been a bit like this in the continuing dark, cold mornings of these early months but in looking back at my journal I find God copes with me however I feel, both through turning to him in prayer and through silence and Bible reading. As Julian of Norwich says,

“All believing prayer is precious . . . God accepts our good-will and work no matter how we feel.”

Saturday 7th January

What a shame to wake so thankful yesterday, so cross today!

Wednesday 11th January

A gentle, joyful waking – all Church stuff now in Rev Steve's hands – me just pottering on with the stuff I do, not on care duty for my parents today, Paul off to the 'engine shed' later and amazingly, cricket on the radio!

The thought for the day today is from Richard Bach,
“The best way to pay for a lovely moment is to enjoy it.”

Yesterday's was helpful too, from Gloria Gaither,

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“God’s will for my life is not a neat box on the path, but the path itself – a pilgrimage to be discovered by trust and obedience.”

Trust and obedience I sometimes find difficult but reading in Psalm 122 this morning it strikes me with hindsight that, even in this last difficult year church-wise, many of my best times have been ministry linked.

“I was glad when they said to me,
Let us go to the house of the Lord.”

The preparing and taking of services – always a great joy; my Community Chaplaincy, visiting, home communions, chatting and listening – ‘ministry by walking about’ as I call it; preparing and taking funerals, weddings and baptisms – all gentle opportunities to witness to your love, Lord. Perhaps for some people you help me to be ‘a box on the path’ (*though rarely ‘neat’ – more often booted and muddy.*)

My prayer book falls open at favourite words,
“My share has fallen in a fair land, indeed I have a goodly heritage.”

With love and many blessings,
Mary Tucker

Thank You All

Just a quick thank you to you all for your thank you to me! The lovely flowers, both the bunch and the beautiful orchid are both still blooming in the quiet space where I have my daily quiet time, which ensures you are all still in my thoughts and prayers each day though I shall be with you in the flesh less often. The chocolates are, I fear no more!!! But the card full of love will always be precious to me. Please look after David, Stilman, and all your visiting clergy as you move on into this new interim era.

With love and every blessing

Reverend Mary Tucker

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St John's Church Bonus Ball Sweepstakes

Thank you to everyone who has been part of the first Bonus Ball Sweepstake that started on 2 April last year. Thanks to your involvement, this sweepstake has raised over £1500 towards St John's church in Slimbridge. Saturday 1 April marks the start of the new Bonus Ball year for you. Following the retirement of Bill Boon, we have a new promoter. Because of this, I will be printing a new set of rules (*on pink paper this time*) for everyone who is in the first Sweepstake. I will be delivering these to you in the next few weeks. These will also have payment dates on them for those of you who prefer to pay quarterly or monthly. There are 53 Saturdays this time round so the annual payment is £53. Please would you pay your first instalment or annual payment by Saturday 25th March thank you. For the quarterly payers in the second Bonus Ball Sweepstake, your next payment is due by Saturday 25 February. (Your second year will start till June.) Any queries to Ros Davies **07481 018988** or by email to: Slimbridge.bonus@btinternet.com

Slimbridge Bonus Ball book:

Winners so far for December 22 - January 23.

24 th December	19	Kim Webb Sidney Bennett
31 st December	19	Kim Webb Sidney Bennett
7 th January	18	Kate Bottger Margaret Wannell
14 th January	24	Barbara Sanderson Julie Reynolds
21 st January	18	Kate Bottger Margaret Wannell

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News from the bell tower:

Our learners continue to make good progress under the watchful eyes of Andrew Ward, James Joynson, Terry Chivers and Mike Bateman. We are very grateful to them for travelling to Slimbridge most Fridays to support our practices. The bells also rang out in December to herald the Christmas Market and the concert by the Slimbridge Singers. In January, we rang the bells before the Songs of Praise on 22 January. Now that the bells are being rung more often, it is planned to survey them and to make a plan of what work needs to be done in the short and medium term.

Songs of Praise event at St John's church, Slimbridge.

I was asked if the BBC were coming to film 'Songs of Praise' here in Slimbridge, so we are sorry if we sent out the wrong message but our new event title 'Songs of Praise' we admit was probably a bit misleading but it goes to show that it is obviously something that people do watch on TV.

This time it was something organised by our local community and a first and indeed, was our opportunity to sing songs of praise! it really was a great success.

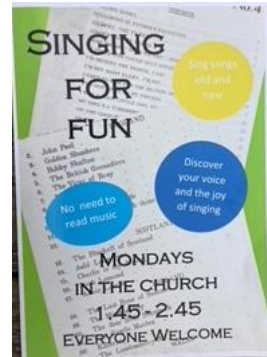
Those who contributed to their choice of song or hymn had the opportunity to present the reasons why they liked their choice in particular, or presented by Claire before each was choice was sung. We thank Ros Davies,, Ursula Toher, Claire Greenwood and others for setting this event up and of course to Ursula playing the organ for so many choices made. It was a joy to hear so many people singing so enthusiastically (We nearly raised the church roof) (*Thankfully not*) but it must be said, what a joyful time was had by all. The weather conditions did not deter from the absolute joy for all those that attended.

Further, we take this opportunity to thank the team of **bell ringers** for heralding the event just before hand. Many wanted to know when we shall repeat this event again. Perhaps a little later on this year, watch this space! Having said that, the same group have put together something that may interest you. See over.

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Singing for Fun:

As a precursor, the same group have already put together a new event now running since 9th January until the end of February 'Singing for Fun' As the poster says; Come and Sing songs old and new; No need to read music, Discover your voice and the joy of singing. Mondays in Church 1.45pm – 2.45pm – Everyone welcome.



Church Rotas:

With the continuing vacancy, we are so grateful to all those involved in keeping the routine of the Parish Church going. Let us not be too downhearted because the current uncertainties surrounding the vacancy period should not interrupt the valuable work done in keeping our Church clean, beautiful flower displays and those who serve our refreshments rotas. Your efforts are truly appreciated. Please continue as normal, Should you wish to help, please see the contacts as set out 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.
- *Unlocking & Locking of Church – Contact the Church Wardens.

**For some time now we have had an open church policy, this can only continue if we have enough people to undertake opening and locking the Church each day.*

Note: *I have deliberately not listed those on our security list for obvious reasons but if you would like to find out about what is involved and feel you would like to help, please do get in touch with me. David*

News from the Bell-tower!

The Central Council of Church Bell Ringers has launched a new initiative: **Ring for the King!** If you are interested in learning how to ring the Church Bells in Slimbridge, or maybe you would

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like to return to Bell Ringing after a break of several years, please get in touch with Tower Captain Huvin Thompson on 01453 890 469 or Huvin.thompson@gmail.com

It may take a few months to get sufficiently proficient to ring with others but the effort is worthwhile. Interestingly, church bell ringing can be used to achieve an award 'Skill'

section of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. See:

<https://cccbr.org.uk/duke> of edinburgh/



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Historical Snippets: *Taken 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– **February 1949**'.*

**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, **February 1949**:

Notes: As this month draws to a close, the season of Lent will be commencing. Wednesday March 2nd on ASH WEDNESDAY. A service for children will be held in church at 4 o'clock, and an evening service for adults at 7.30pm. On Wednesday evening during the season there will be a short service of Compline, after which there will be a reading of a chapter from a Lent book.

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The presentation to Sargent N J Gibson of Tewksbury, late of Cambridge, took the form of an illuminated address, together with an album containing the names of subscribers. In acknowledging the gift, Sgt. Gibson made the remark that although he had lived in a good many places in the county of Gloucester, he had never yet found a place where church life was so happy as it is here in Slymbridge.

We tender our best wishes to Mr and Mrs J F Brown (*Nee June Smith*) on the occasion of their marriage. It was very unfortunate that they have been obliged to leave the Parish to get living accommodation, as they were both regular attendants at the Parish Church services, and will therefore be missed. But we hope they will still be able to come sometimes.

We express our sympathy with our licensed Reader, Mr H C Tocknell, and all the members of his family, in the loss they have sustained by the death of both father and mother in one week. Henry and Emily Tocknell, were very well known throughout the whole neighbourhood. We also extend sympathy to the widow and relatives of the late Charles Chadwick Rowley, of Bristol Road, Cambridge. May God grant to them Rest and Peace.

The members of our choir, their wives, families and friends had a most enjoyable outing to the Pantomime at the Bristol Hippodrome, thanks to the excellent arrangements made by our good friend, Mr Vic Ward. All who went enjoyed it thoroughly. The same can be said of two other most enjoyable social functions, viz., the bell ringers dance and supper. Both were very successful owing to the excellent arrangements carried out by Mr H J Hobbs, Mr T Hall and Mr D Tocknell.

Will all members of the congregation who support the mission to Lebombo please see that their collecting boxes are sent or brought in to be opened on Sunday, February 13th. One or two new subscribers would be welcomed.

Mr O E Hill, the organist, was responsible for a visit again this year of the Frampton Players, who provided a splendid programme, the children's dancing being particularly good, and much enjoyed.

Young wives meet on Wednesday 16th at 3pm, Speaker Mrs Wyatt of Stroud.

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Mothers Union -- Thursday 24th. Speaker, The Rev. N D M Crossman, Vicar of Lower Cam. Speaking generally, our congregations have kept up very well during this winter, so far, and we hope they continue to do so. There has, however, been a great deal of sickness of one sort or another recently that has prevented many of our worshippers attending Church as regularly as they otherwise would. Cases of dangerous or serious sickness should be reported to the Rector.

Your sincere friend and Rector,

Rev. W. H. Thomas

-0-

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 them, but sadly not to be taken away.

Smile for a while:

A Smile by: *Poet: Daniel C. Colesworthy*

A smile! - Who will refuse a smile,
The sorrowing breast to cheer,
And turn to love the heart of guile,
And check the falling tear.

It speaks of kindness and of love,
A generous sympathy;
And lifts, on golden wings above,
The child of penury.

A pleasant smile for every face
Oh, 'tis a blessed thing!
It will the lines of care erase,
And spots of beauty bring.



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'Twill calm the passions, and subdue
The ingrate's fiercest rage;
With buds and blossoms sweetly strew
The path of youth and age.

*Have you ever thought of smiling as a form of kindness and love?
Kindness can be shown in many ways as reflected in
these [kindness poems](#), but smiling is also a form of kindness.*

Sue's Garden Snippets for February 2023:

Now is the time to prune your roses. Bush roses should be goblet-shaped, open in the centre, last year's stems cut back to 6-8 inches to an outward facing bud, stems growing into the centre removed. Tall shrub roses can be reduced by 4 inches all over and one-third of old, gnarled stems cut off at the ground, or pruned like bush roses. Climbers should have their stems trained horizontally, with all shoots growing from these cut to two buds. Early spring and summer flowering ramblers produce blooms on the previous year's growth and should be pruned immediately after flowering, not now.



Once pruning has been completed, mulch around the plants with a generous helping of organic matter, 2" deep but not touching the plants themselves. Flower borders and vegetable beds should also be thickly mulched now. This improves the health of the soil, retains moisture and helps to reduce annual weeds.

Plan where you are going to site your hammock for summer!

Sue

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Slimbridge Friendship Club: Slimbridge Friendship club has just celebrated its twelfth anniversary and is for retirees. We meet every fortnight at the Slimbridge Legion Social Club from 2pm – 4pm. We have an active social programme throughout the year including talks, theatre trips, 10 ten pin bowling at Gloucester Bowl and the occasional pub lunch. Contact Dave Carrington for further Information on 01453 890031 or email davidcarrington725@gmail.com



Sue Gibson School of Gardening

3-Term Courses in:

Garden Design (beginners)

Garden Design & Management (improvers) and

One day Workshops on:

Pruning Shrubs, Roses & Perennials (July 2023)

Growing & Training Fruit in Small Spaces (August 2023)

For more information

May Cottage, Shepherd's Patch, Slimbridge

Or Call Sue Gibson on 01453 890820

www.iteachgardening.co.uk

Candlemas

Candlemas Day is celebrated on 2nd February. It is also known as the Feast of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary or the Feast of the Presentation of Jesus Christ. It is a Holy Day in the Christian religion, which commemorates when Jesus was presented at the Temple. This account can be found in Luke 2:22-40 of the Bible.



This ancient festival marks the midpoint of winter, halfway between the Winter solstice (*shortest day*) and the spring equinox in the northern hemisphere. At St Johns church, Candlemas is celebrated by placing candles on our windowsills donated by the family and friends in dedication to loved ones who have died.

Lent:

Throughout the six weeks of Lent, we will be holding Lenten evening prayer in Church every Wednesday from Ash Wednesday 22nd February, onwards starting at 7.30pm.



Items for the next edition of the Parish News for

March 2023: Please send in your item no later than:

Thursday 26th March 2023 call on 01453 890031 or email to:

davidcarrington725@gmail.com

Written, printed & produced by Church Warden David Carrington during the vacancy which commenced last September following the retirement of Revd. Bill Boon.

Acknowledgements: Thank you to all those editing who contribute and edited this edition.