



Church of St John the Evangelist Slimbridge

News for the Parish – October 2023

Vacancy edition – 13

Price per copy £1.00

or a yearly subscription of £10.00

as a donation towards the cost of printing

Contacts for Slimbridge Parish Church

Parochial Church Council

Church Wardens	David Carrington 01453 890 031 Sue Gibson 01453 890 820
PCC Secretary	Pamela Storey, email pamelastorey@btinternet.com
PCC Members	Pat Cope, Elizabeth Ferigno, Ann Jones, Eric Jones, Huvin Thompson, Stilman Davis (<i>ex officio</i>)

Ministry Team

Supervising Priest	Graham Stacey, Area Dean, 01453 709 859
Reader	Stilman Davis 01453 890 783
Worship Leader	David Carrington 01453 890 031

For Life Events (Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals), please contact Graham Stacey.

Music in church	Ursula Toher 0775 950 2792
-----------------	----------------------------

Contributions welcome

Please send new material to Stilman Davis (email stilman@tolutim.co.uk) by the 20th of the month.

Cover image

A carved ivory image of St John the Evangelist from the time of Charlemagne, ninth century.

Introducing... us

As you may gather, I'm the new 'vicar' for Slimbridge, and I thought you might like to know a little about me.



Daniel, Kate, Anna, Bethia and I at the Greenbelt festival, which is now one of the times each year that we are together as a family.

Here are the basics.

I live in Lower Cam and have been the vicar for Lower Cam and Coaley for a year.

My wife, Kate, and I have been happily married for 27 years, and this is our 8th home together. These have taken us from Northwood, Middlesex to Gloucestershire via High Wycombe and Oxfordshire.

Kate has been the Rector in Stroud since 2018 and will continue to commute to work from Lower Cam.

Our three children are now all adults: Anna – 24, Bethia – 21 and Daniel – 19. Anna lives and works in Stroud. Bethia has just started midwifery training in Swansea. Daniel is an apprentice civil engineer in Windsor.

What else might you like to know?

I've worked as an assistant in an Italian restaurant and for the then 6th richest person in the world and plenty in between. I became a Christian when I was 23 and have pretty much worked for, around and in the church ever since. Along the way, I have started and run a charity and a business.

When I am relaxing, you'll find me either in the garage fixing or making something, digging and planting in the garden or cycling.

I look forward to meeting you, whether you're a regular in a church service, an occasional visitor, or haven't been since you can't remember.

Graham Stacey

Together

I am sure you know, or at least have heard – a problem shared is a problem halved. That doing something together is easier than by yourself, especially in the face of a problem or adversity.

That is the experience of many of us, I am sure.

But that is not the not the full extent of the blessing that together can be.

It is easy to say that three churches working together, like Lower Cam, Coaley and Slimbridge, is the result of fewer resources and finances. Sadly, this is some of the reality we live with, but it is not the end of the story.

One of the amazing things about our created world that constantly surprises the likes of scientists, naturalists and all kinds of people like ourselves is just how connected everything is. Something we are noticing more as climate change continues to occur and accelerate. Connections are vital for life in all

its richness and diversity. Connections not only strengthen each part, they also form something that is stronger than the sum of the parts. Connections are vital from the sub-atomic to the cosmic and include us as humans. Perhaps relationships would be a better word than connections, and perhaps it is no surprise that we find the same pattern in our Triune God of three persons who love one another so much that they can be called one. At the heart of the God of love is relationships.

So, what has this to do with Slimbridge working with Lower Cam and Coaley? Perhaps we will find that we are stronger, more resilient and more secure together; perhaps we will find that we're also more creative, adaptive and more courageous. Mostly, I hope we find that we are more welcoming, open, hospitable, caring, generous and more loving together.

We're at the beginning of a new and amazing chapter together. One in which we find ourselves walking with different people, some we know well and some not so well. Walking with us is the God who loves us, each one of us.

Over the coming weeks and months, we will explore what our together looks like, how we support each other and find strength from knowing we are together. Inevitably, there will be compromises and accommodations as we adapt. There will also be opportunities and blessings from each other and from God. As with any relationship, the route to flourishing together is through gratitude and spotting what is good in each other, building each other up in love.

Graham Stacey

Missing torch

If you know where the very useful gold-coloured torch from the tower base has gone, please would you return it to its hook. If you have only taken it away to give it some fresh batteries, many thanks.

Fit for Function Conference: Volunteers, visitors and keeping churches open

Wednesday October 4, 10:00 am to 4:15 pm

The venue is – The Beechill Room, St James Church, Church Lane,
Norton, Kempsey, Worcester, WR5 2PX

Do you want to find out more about recruiting and retaining volunteers,
setting up a Friends Group or making the most of tourism opportunities in
your church building?

Read more at

[https://gloucester.anglican.org/event/fit-for-function-conference-volunteers
-visitors-and-keeping-churches-open/](https://gloucester.anglican.org/event/fit-for-function-conference-volunteers-visitors-and-keeping-churches-open/)

or contact Church House on 01452 410022

from the diocesan website

Digital media training in Gloucester

Join the national Digital Labs team for a series of interactive sessions at
Hatherley Manor, Gloucester, taking participants from the basics of setting
up internal and external communication channels for worshipping
communities, through to a seminar-style session to discuss current issues
facing church communications.

Read more at

<https://gloucester.anglican.org/event/digital-media-training/>
or contact Church House on 01452 410022

from the diocesan website

Creation Care

A series of seminars led by the Revd Dr Mark Siddall

Thursday October 26, 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm

These seminars will be led by Revd Dr Mark Siddall who, before becoming Priest-in-Charge of St James Church Kingsway and Quedgeley, had an international career in Climate Research.

This seminar series is based around Creation Care: A Biblical Theology of the Natural World by Douglas J. Moo and Jonathan A. Moo. It aims to equip preachers and church leaders for the years and decades ahead by studying the scriptural, theological and missional imperative to Care for God’s Creation. The text is aimed at final year undergraduate and MA students and so expect a rigorous level of engagement, which will expose you to a range of approaches and scholarship on this subject.

... ..

It will help to have read the book before you attend.

Date	Chapter Numbers	Title of session
26th October	1 and 2	Methodology
9th November	6 and 7	Scripture
23rd November	9 and 10	Eschatology and Good News
7th December	11 and 14	Human vocation in Creation

Read more at
<https://gloucester.anglican.org/event/creation-care-a-series-of-seminars-led-by-the-revd-dr-mark-siddall/>
or contact Church House on 01452 410022

from the diocesan website

Wholeness: Being Well Day

Saturday October 28, 10:00 am to 3:00 pm
venue – St Mary's, Wotton Under Edge

We all carry places of pain and hurting spaces within us, it is part of inhabiting a human body and living in human relationships.

The Christian faith reaches into these places bringing peace to our emptiness, offering hope and healing to our places of pain.

St Mary's, Wotton Under Edge, will be filled with creative opportunities for people of all ages and stages of faith, or none, to explore different approaches to finding healing and wholeness including: music, Christian-based yoga, silence/mindfulness, bereavement support, engaging the senses, engaging with a Bible text, a churchyard prayer walk and labyrinth to encounter God in nature.

Light refreshments will be served throughout the day or enjoy the local cafes. Being Well Day is for all ages, so bring your family and friends.

Read more at

<https://gloucester.anglican.org/event/being-well-day/>
or contact Church House on 01452 410022

from the diocesan website

Creating Conversational and Relationship Rich Spaces

Thursday November 16, 10:00 am to 1:30 pm

Through this seminar we will ask if we have lost the art of conversation and explore together the power of authentic conversations and how these change lives. We will unpack how conversation can support our own well-being,

impact our discipleship and pastoral care, and in turn transform our approach to mission.

To demonstrate and experience this we will use our ‘TableTalk’ resources designed to help people hold authentic conversations. Depending on the event, location and audience we can use any of our TableTalk packs, which include: Well-being / Leadership / Early Years / Children / Youth / Students / Families / Men / Women / Retired / Messy Church / Change....and more.

Plenty of space will be given for you to reflect on the impact conversation can have on supporting people to find life in all its fullness. Not only will participants find this seminar helpful to themselves but it will resource them to go away and support people in their church and communities.

Read more at

<https://gloucester.anglican.org/event/creating-conversational-and-relational-rich-spaces/>

or contact Church House on 01452 410022

from the diocesan website

Vocation to Ministry Day

Saturday October 14, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Venue – The Jerusalem Room, No 4 College Green No 4 College Green, Gloucester, United Kingdom

An opportunity for people with a sense that the Holy Spirit is nudging them to explore new ways of serving God in the Church and the world.

Read more at

<https://gloucester.anglican.org/event/vocation-to-ministry-day-3-2-2-2-2-2-2/>

or contact Church House on 01452 410022

from the diocesan website

Events in the Parish

Harvest Festival – Sunday 1st October

Harvest Worship of Evening Prayer at 6.00pm followed by a Harvest Supper at 7.00pm in the Village Hall

Supper Tickets £15

Book your tickets on 01453 890517 or 07836505113

and at the Slimbridge Post Office.

Pat Cope

First Saturday Coffee Morning – 7th October

Also a Produce & Chutney Stall

Plus Slimbridge Neighbourhood Development Plan will be available for consultation.

Raising funds for the Cotswolds Dogs & Cats Home

Usual time, 10-30 until 12.00 in the village hall. Everyone welcome.

Pat Cope

St John's Church Bonus Ball Sweepstakes

26 August	43	Val Scott Emma Daglish
2 September	16	Sue Gibson Pam Johnson
9 September	56	Moirra Garner Mary Prior
16 September	50	Mary Goatman Karon Scammell
23 September	13	Jane Hawkins Anne Fry

All balls on both cards are currently in play. Thank you to everyone who is taking part in this useful fundraiser.

*Ros Davies (text: 07481 018988 or email:
Slimbridge.bonus@btinternet.com)*

Singing for Fun

We will be holding an Autumn Singing for Fun session in the Village hall on Monday 9 October, from 13:30 till 15:00. Weekly winter sessions will also be held in the Village Hall, starting on Monday 8 January.

Worship at St John the Evangelist, Slimbridge

Please join us whenever you can.

October	time	Worship
1 st	9:00 10:00 18:00	BCP Holy Communion Holy Communion Harvest Evening Prayer
8 th	10:00	Morning Prayer
15 th	10:00	Morning Praise and Worship
22 nd	10:30	Worship Together with Cam and Coaley at Cam
29 th	10:30	Worship Together with Cam and Coaley at Coaley
Each Saturday		9:00 Morning Prayer