Beacon Light Online

www.beaconbenefice.org.uk

…linking the Beacon Parishes

Services next Sunday 6th March – 1st Sunday of Lent

10.00am	Painswick	Benefice Eucharist
3.00pm	Painswick	Holy Baptism
6.30pm	Cranham	Evening Worship

We shall welcome the Ven. Hilary Dawson, Archdeacon of Gloucester to preside and preach at the Benefice Eucharist.
There will be a Christian Aid bucket collection for Ukraine at this service.

*We ask you to please **wear a face mask in church** ,unless you have a medical reason not to and **make use of the hand sanitiser** provided as you enter. Whilst face coverings are no longer legally required, this measure will help us keep our community safe. Good ventilation is part of covid precautions and our churches may be less warm as a result. Please dress accordingly.*

A Message from Bishop Rachel

Last week I returned from leading a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. It was a great privilege to walk the holy sites once more while also meeting people who live and work there. It is indeed both a beautiful and turbulent place where land and dividing boundaries are continually contested, and the stories and experiences of the past have shaped the way individuals and communities are living the present. Etched on my mind are both the horrific exhibits at Yad Vashem (the holocaust museum), and the oppressive West Bank wall which grows ever longer.

Two days after arriving home came the news of Russia's invasion of Ukraine – an abhorrent act of aggression in which once again land and dividing boundaries are contested, and the stories and experiences of the past have shaped the way individuals and communities are living the present.

In Israel Palestine it was poignant meeting with Christians in different places who spoke of their commitment to be people of peace, hope, love and light, despite being small in number. As I enter Lent I am holding fast to their faith and hope in my endeavour to remember them and pray for them.

Closer to home, the priest from the Ukrainian church in Gloucester responded to a message from me with the words: 'We are most grateful for your prayers and blessing which remind us of the words of St. Paul who said that 'in the body of Christ, the weak are supported by the strong'.'

As we venture into Lent may we not only pray earnestly for peace and for our brothers and sisters in Ukraine, Russia, Israel Palestine, and so many places across our world where there is damaging and dangerous division; but may we also recognise how our own stories and experiences from the past have both positively and negatively shaped our personal inner landscapes and the way we live our lives in our different contexts across our diocese.

May this Lent take us deeper into discovering more of what it means to be members together of the Body of Christ across our diocese, country and world, and may we walk the holy ground of our contexts wearing shoes of peace:

'As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace' (Ephesians 6:15)

With my thanks and prayers as ever.

+ Rachel

Readings

Collect

Heavenly Father,

your Son battled with the powers of darkness,
and grew closer to you in the desert:
help us to use these days to grow in wisdom and prayer
that we may witness to your saving love
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Psalm 91.1-2,9-16

You who live in the shelter of the Most High,
who abide in the shadow of the Almighty,
will say to the Lord, 'My refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust.'
Because you have made the LORD your refuge,
the Most High your dwelling-place,
no evil shall befall you,
no scourge come near your tent.

For he will command his angels concerning you
to guard you in all your ways.
On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.
You will tread on the lion and the adder,
the young lion and the serpent you will trample under foot.

Those who love me, I will deliver;
I will protect those who know my name.
When they call to me, I will answer them;
I will be with them in trouble, I will rescue them and honour them.
With long life I will satisfy them,
and show them my salvation.

The Gospel according to Luke 4.1-13

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. The devil said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.' Jesus answered him, 'It is written, "One does not live by bread alone." '

Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And the devil said to him, 'To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.' Jesus answered him, 'It is written, "Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him." '

Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written, "He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you", and "On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone." 'Jesus answered him, 'It is said, "Do not put the Lord your God to the test." ' When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

What does temptation look and feel like in your life?

•How is it most often made manifest?
•What gets in the way of your relationship with God?
•What keeps you from seeing the image of God in others or in yourself?
•How does Jesus, in his example in the Gospel narrative and, more importantly, in your relationship with the Risen Christ, strengthen you to resist temptation?
•How does Jesus' faith and trust and absolute devotion to God, inspire you to more fully devote yourself to that which is holy?

Beacon People

Our prayers are asked for all who are sick, especially **Rebecca Applebee-Crabb, Richard Garrett, Frauke Hankamer, Andrea Linsell** and **Jenipher Pritchard .** Pray for all those people, whether they are relatives or friends, who care for the sick and disabled in their own homes and for those undergoing cancer treatment at this time.

We pray also for all the charities which this benefice supports, including Christian Aid, GARAS, Marah, Sportily , Stroud Citizens Advice, Stroud Foodbank and The Vine Project and all from our churches and villages who work in the NHS and in care homes.

We also remember before God all who have died recently, especially **Ron Barney** , **Margaret Shea** and **Joyce Smith**, as well as all whose anniversaries of death fall at this time. May they and all the departed rest in peace and rise in glory.

The funeral of Joyce Smith takes place in St. Mary's at 2pm on March 11th. Our sympathies go to her daughter Julie and all the family. There will be a memorial service for the late Joy Butler of Richmond Village on April 1st at 12.00noon. All are invited to attend.

Notices

World Day of Prayer, THIS FRIDAY 4th March We are holding this year's **Service in St Mary's Church at 10.30am** and warmly invite everyone to join us! As in previous years the material has been prepared by local women and shares some of their life experiences. This year the host country is the U.K. Afterwards there will be refreshments and time to enjoy each other's company. We look forward to seeing you.

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After a gap last year , the **Children's Society Box Collection time** is coming round again. I won't be holding the usual coffee and count morning this year but if you're able to **drop your box to me at: Merienda, Cranham, GL4 8JA - before 18 th March** - that would be fantastic. **Or drop it into the reception at The Croft School, Painswick** or give me a call and I can arrange to collect it. If you're interested in becoming a box holder, would like to make a donation, or would like me to collect your box - please give me a call. Victoria Soutar – 07900451248 soutarfamily@live.co.uk

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Thank you so much to all who contributed towards the 115kg of **donations for Stroud Foodbank.** Due to a rapid increase in demand over the last four months, Foodbank is now having to top up donations by buying in extra stock so you know every one of your gifts is needed. **Our next collection is on Wednesday 16 March, 10-12noon, in Stamages Lane Car Park and at The Stocks.** Suggested shopping list however any item will be gratefully received but please NO pasta or cereal. Tinned Vegetables, fruit juices, jam and spreads, sweet and savoury treats, toiletries, laundry liquids/powderWe look forward to seeing you!

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PAINSWICK MUSIC SOCIETY'S 76 th Season comprises four wonderful concerts to look forward to, all taking place in St Mary's Church on Saturday afternoons.
26 th MARCH at 3pm - Carducci Quartet with Clare Hammond (piano). Programme: Schumann's Piano Quintet and works by Fanny Mendelssohn and Shostakovich
9 th April at 3pm - Jess Gillam (saxophone) and James Baillieu (piano). Programme includes works by Telemann, Poulenc and Piazzolla
30 th April at 4pm – Voces8. Programme: Choral Music Celebrating Regeneration
14 th May at 3pm - Iyad Sughayer (piano). Programme includes works by Haydn, Schubert, Schumann, Sibelius and Helen Ottaway
Memberships and tickets can be bought online at: www.painswickmusicsoc.co.uk All ticket and membership enquiries to Edward Bowron: tickets@painswickmusicsoc.co.uk or 07789 006006

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The Pastoral Committee has recently been reviewing the **Pastoral Link System** and after much thought and discussion, we decided that for various reasons, we were no longer able to cover the community as effectively and widely as we would like. With the formation of the Painswick Community Support group, which initially started as a response to the Covid crisis and subsequently relaunched as an ongoing community support group with a helpline and 30+ DBS checked volunteers covering the whole of Painswick and links with the Parish Council, CTAP and the Pharmacy, it was agreed that the Link system in its current form was no longer needed. Many thanks to all the Link leaders for all they have done over the years. The Pastoral Committee will, of course, still be here to help with any pastoral concerns so do get in touch if you need any help or support. *Delyth Allen (Lay Pastoral Assistant) 07854262517 or delyth_allen@hotmail.co.uk*

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Sources of help :

Cranham Community Response Team: *The initial contact for Cranham residents is:* nigelrobincooper@gmail.com *Tel: 07973 340227*

The Painswick Community Support initiative provides community support for Painswick. If you need support, please contact 07956 203087 painswickcommunity@gmail.com

Painswick Community Hub Tea, coffee and home-made cakes in the Town Hall every Friday 9.30-11am. All are welcome. The volunteers would be very grateful for any offers of home-made cakes, biscuits or traybakes - Tel Delyth Allen on 07854262517 or Painswick Community Support on 07956203087 or email painswickcommunity@gmail.com . Chris Walker, the Community Engagement Officer Age UK, will be dropping in at the Friday Community Hub café at the Town Hall on Friday March 4th to offer help and advice. Friday March 11th - drop-in visit from Debbie Collicott and PC Lee Kattenhorn (Police Community Officers)

Weekday Worship

Wednesday weekly: 9.00am Benefice Prayer time via Zoom
The weekly Zoom invitation will be sent out with Beacon Light each week. Lindsay Gardiner (lindsay.gardiner@icloud.com) Karen Riding (kriding07@yahoo.co.uk

Thursday weekly : 9.30am Morning Prayer via Zoom from Sheepscombe
If you would like to join in or would like a copy of the service sheet please email Karen Riding kriding07@yahoo.co.uk.

1st Wednesday of each month: 10.30am Holy Communion at Richmond Village

3rd Tuesday of each month: 11.00am Holy Communion at Resthaven

Services next Sunday 13th March - 2nd Sunday of Lent

9.30am	Painswick	Holy Communion
9.30am	Pitchcombe	Morning Prayer
11.00am	Cranham	Holy Communion
11.00am	Harescombe	Holy Communion
11.00am	Sheepscombe	Morning Worship & APCM

Contacts

Rector: Revd. Janet Turville

Benefice Office: The Lychgate, Stroud Road, Painswick, GL6 6UT

Tel: 01452 814795 Email: lychgateoffice@btinternet.com

Associate Priest: Revd. Andrew Leach Tel: 07564 448692 Email: ajpleach@gmail.com

Website: www.beaconbenefice.org.uk

Information for the next Beacon Light Online to ajpleach@gmail.com by **Tuesday 5pm at the latest,** please.

And Finally...

Seen in a pewsheet: "Remember the church jumble sale. We have a gents three-speed bicycle, also two ladies for sale, in good running order. "