



BEACON LIGHT

...Linking the Beacon Parishes



Christmas Edition!

Sunday 21 st December	4 th Sunday of Advent	
9.30am	<u>Harescombe</u> with Edge	Holy Communion
11.00am	Pitchcombe	 Carol Service
11.00am	Painswick	Holy Communion
2.30pm	Cranham Village Hall	Carol Concert 
6.00pm	Painswick	 Carol Service
6.00pm	Edge	Carols and Readings 
6.30pm	Sheepscombe	Carol Service

Monday 22 nd December 2.00pm-3.00pm	The Church Rooms	The Waiting Room Advent Prayer, Activities & Reflection
Monday 22 nd December 4.30pm-6.00pm	St Mary's / Church Rooms	 Sherlock Supper 
Tuesday 23 rd December 9.00am	Painswick	Morning Prayer <i>with coffee</i>
Wednesday 24 th December 9.00am	Via Zoom	Beacon Prayer <i>Email: lindsay.gardiner@icloud.com or Karen: kriding07@yahoo.co.uk</i>

Wednesday 24 th December	Christmas Eve	
3.00pm	Edge	Christingle 
4.00pm	Painswick	 Crib Service 
4.00pm	Cranham	 Crib Service
4.00pm	Sheepscombe	Crib & Family Communion 
11.15pm	Painswick	Midnight Mass

Thursday 25 th December	Christmas Day	
9.30am	Sheepscombe	Christmas Family Communion 
10.00am	<u>Harescombe</u> with Edge	Christmas Praise
10.00am	Painswick	Christmas Family Communion 
10.00am	Pitchcombe	Christmas Praise
11.00am	Cranham	 Christmas Family Communion

Collect for the Fourth Sunday of Advent

Eternal God,
as Mary waited for the birth of your Son,
so we wait for his coming in glory;
bring us through the birth pangs of this present age
to see, with her, our great salvation
in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

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### Beacon People and Prayers

Is there someone in particular you would like us to pray for?

Beacon Intercessory Prayer Coordinator: Mike Campbell  
Tel: 07812 000646 Email: [beaconbeneficeministry@gmail.com](mailto:beaconbeneficeministry@gmail.com)

Our prayers are asked for all who are unwell or injured in mind, body or spirit, especially **Liz Flint, Jean Garratt, Chris Garrett, Bill Lambell, Elaine Leach, Mary Morse, Sue Pouncey, Don Say, David Swinson, Hazel Stacey, Alan Tyson and Dick Williams.**

Let us also pray for all people, whether they are relatives, friends or professionals, who care for the sick or disabled in their homes, and for those recovering from surgery or undergoing cancer treatment.

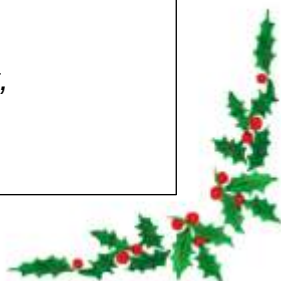
We remember before God **Feifei Gao, Charles Garstang, Jean Harley, Anne Shawcross, Aryna Starovoitova, Roger Stewart and Ann Williams**, who recently passed away. May they rest in the peace and love of Christ. We also remember all whose anniversaries of death fall at this time. May their families and loved ones know the peace, light and love of Christ our Lord.



*Greetings, All Ye Faithful!*

*Dear church family, it has been a busy December across our benefice and so my Christmas card writing has somewhat fallen by the wayside! May I take this opportunity to wish you all a truly wonderful encounter with our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ as you draw near him in worship and adoration this Christmas. Holding you all prayerfully in the love of God and looking forward to worshipping with you this Christmastide.*

*Yours in Christ,  
Revd Sarah*



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DON'T MISS! THIS WEEKEND!





Christmas Carols

Sunday 21st December



11am – Pitchcombe

2.30pm – Cranham Village Hall

6pm – Edge

6pm – Painswick

6.30pm – Sheepscombe



CRANHAM CHOIR
AND ORCHESTRA'S

Christmas CONCERT

SUNDAY 21ST DECEMBER

2.30 PM AT THE
VILLAGE HALL

DONATIONS
FOR ENTRY



JOY TO THE WORLD!



Coming up this week...



St. John's Church, Sheepscombe	
Welcome to our Christmas Worship and Celebration of the Nativity	
	December 18 th 9.30 Nativity Story and Carols led by Sheepscombe School
December 21 st 6.30 Candlelit Carols (Mulled wine and Mince pies)	
	December 24 th 4.00 Crib and Family Carols
December 25 th 9.30 Christmas Family Communion	
	December 28 th 11.00 Morning Worship



Fun Games Crafts Story time

Sherlock Supper

Monday 22nd December 2025
4.30-6.00pm, St Mary's in Painswick



Activities, story, then meal in the Church Rooms
(Christmas cottage pie with cranberry sauce & peas, followed by ice cream, sauces & sprinkles.)

Children, bring your own adult with you!

Cash donations on the door



BOOK YOUR PLACE!

[Click here](#)

Or scan the QR code.

It will help us with numbers for catering.



Book now
(click here)

and join me for
a Christmas
cottage pie.



For more info, email Vic Soutar familyhub@beaconbenefice.org.uk



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### What's been happening in December?



Last Thursday Rev. Sarah and I were welcomed into Painswick Playgroup to share the Christmas Story with them. We retold the story with knitted characters which they really engaged with, and enjoyed helping to tell the story. They then sang us one of their Christmas songs.



On Sunday St. Mary's enjoyed a lovely family Christingle celebration finding about what all the different parts remind us of, and how we can help the work of the Children's Society. Ask someone who was there to see how much they can remember! Children gathered at the front to make their Christingles before they were lit and we sang a final song together. Vics Soutar



## Later in DECEMBER

| Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> December |             | Christmas 1                                                                                                   |
|----------------------------------|-------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 11.00am                          | Pitchcombe  | Holy Communion                                                                                                |
| 11.00am                          | Sheepscombe | Morning Worship                                                                                               |
| 11.00am                          | Painswick   | Beacon Praise                                                                                                 |
| 6.30pm                           | Cranham     | Nine Lessons and Carols                                                                                       |
| 11.00am                          | Cranham     |  Christmas Family Communion |

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“LET EARTH RECEIVE HER KING”

Time to pray and get inviting people NOW

Which is why we are running an **ALPHA** Course starting on 19th Jan 2026 and through every Monday evening until 30th March. (i.e. into Holy Week - Easter Day is April 5th).

This will be for ANYONE interested, from across the Benefice and even beyond. Who will you invite? Please tell them now so that they can arrange their diaries.



SAVE THE DATES! Mondays in January, February & March.

An **ALPHA** evening starts at 7.00pm and involves food, film and discussion; topics will include: “Is there More to Life than This?”, “Who is Jesus and why did He die?”, Prayer, The Bible, “Who is the Holy Spirit?”... and much more.

ALPHA is a safe place to explore issues of faith and to ask absolutely anything. There are no daft questions! So why not book those Monday evenings now and get the message out there! **For more info or to say how you would like to be involved, please contact Paul Kenchington on paul.kenchington@icloud.com**



“LET EVERY HEART PREPARE HIM ROOM”

BEACON
BENEFICE



[Click here](#) or scan the QR to register your interest.



DONKEY: RECENT SIGHTING IN PAINSWICK!

For anyone keen to follow the journey, you can still keep up with Mary, Joseph and the donkey by following **@B** [Grab your reader's attention with a great quote from the document or use this space to emphasize a key point. To place this text box anywhere on the page, just drag it.]

BeaconBenefice on Instagram and **@PainswickChurch** on Facebook.



The donkey continues his travels around the village and is expected to make an appearance at the **Sherlock Supper** this week. If all goes to plan (and he doesn't get held up along the way!), he will finally complete his long journey by arriving at the church on **Christmas Eve**, just in time for the **Crib Service**. Mary, we're sure, will be very pleased to finally rest — as together we look forward with joy to the birth of Jesus.



PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY AND JOYFULLY!

I recently read that "your attitude towards money is a barometer of your whole outlook on life" (*Nicky Gumbel, Bible In One Year*), so I wonder, is it time for you to prayerfully review your financial giving to your church? If so, you might like to say the following prayer as you wait on the Lord for his leading.

Gracious God, Thank you for your generosity to me. As I reflect on what it means to give faithfully, and regularly, open my hearts to your Spirit. Help me to see giving not as an obligation but as joyful participation in your work in the world. Amen.

Pitchcombe's QR Code to come soon-
Sort: 30 - 98 - 29 Acct: 00284962

Thank you for all the ways you give, seen and unseen. Your faithfulness makes a real difference.



Brookthorpe



Cranham



Painswick



Harescombe



Edge



NOTICES

QR Codes

You may notice we are using QR Codes more often to share information quickly and easily. It has come to our attention that not everyone is familiar with how they work, so we've included this simple guide to help.

There's no need to download anything - just use your phone's camera and follow these steps.

How to scan a QR Code (iPhone or Android)

1. Open the **Camera app** on your phone.
2. Make sure you're using the **rear camera** (the one facing away from you).
3. Point the camera at the QR Code and **centre it on the screen**.
4. Hold your phone steady. A **link will appear** on the screen.
5. **Tap the link** to open the information.

If it doesn't work:

- Make sure the area is **well lit**
- Move your phone a little **closer or further away**
- **Clean your camera lens**
- Try **tapping and holding** on the QR Code
- Keep your phone **still for a few seconds**

That's all there is to it—no app needed, just your camera.



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## **Explorers Bible Study Group – Taking a Break for Christmas**

We have finished the book of Acts and are now taking a break for Christmas. For more information or if you would like to join us in the new year, please contact Rev'd Sarah or Barbara Gay [dandbgay@gmail.com](mailto:dandbgay@gmail.com).

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We're Looking for a Proofreader!

Do you have a keen eye for detail and a love for clear, polished writing? We are seeking a reliable proofreader to help ensure the quality and accuracy of our content. If you—or someone you know—might be interested, please contact the office at beaconbeneficeoffice@gmail.com for more information. We'd love to hear from you!



Shape the Future of Cranham School: Become a School Governor

☀️ Join Cranham C of E as a School Governor! ☀️

💙 No experience needed

💙 No prior connection required

💙 Just enthusiasm, commitment & a desire to help children flourish

🕒 About 4–6 hours a month

🌟 Meetings, committee work & classroom visits

🌟 Celebrate the amazing work of our pupils & staff

👉 Interested? Contact chair@cranham.gloucs.sch.uk today!

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### Looking for a Long-Term Room to Rent

Female looking for long term room to rent.

DBS checked

References available

In full time employment but happy to offer light support if needed within the home.

Mobile: 07919 903393

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Sheepscombe Home Group

Our group meets 10.30am to 12 noon weekly on Wednesdays. The bible is truly amazing and we can only scratch the surface of what it says in Sunday services. This group is for you if you want to look at the bible in a bit more depth or just think about some knotty questions, all with the aim of growing our faith. Absolutely no prior bible knowledge required and you can join anytime or come for a taster. Anyone in the Benefice is really welcome. We have lots of chat and have coffee with cake and or biscuits too! Where? **Paul and Angie Ryan's in Sheepscombe**. Starting up again on **7th January**. If you might like to come or know more do contact Paul 07485253388 or Angie 07816451446.

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### Small Change, Big Difference!

We're continuing to collect small change in aid of **Marah**, a local charity supporting vulnerable and marginalised people in the Stroud area.

With contactless payments now the norm, spare coins can seem a thing of the past — but if you find any in your pockets, bags, or drawers, please consider donating them. Every coin truly counts! Please give any coins to **Alison and Frances** from Painswick or to your **churchwarden** next time you're in church. Your small change can make a big difference.

Thank you! *Alison Robinson and Frances Watson*

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Home Communion and Home Visits

These are available for the housebound, ill and those unable to get to our published church services and activities for any other reason. There are readers and lay people who have been given permission and have received training to offer this ministry alongside the clergy team.

If you are in need of home communion, **please contact Delyth Allen (Pastoral Assistant) on 07854262617 or by email: delythallen58@gmail.com** who will be only too happy to arrange this.

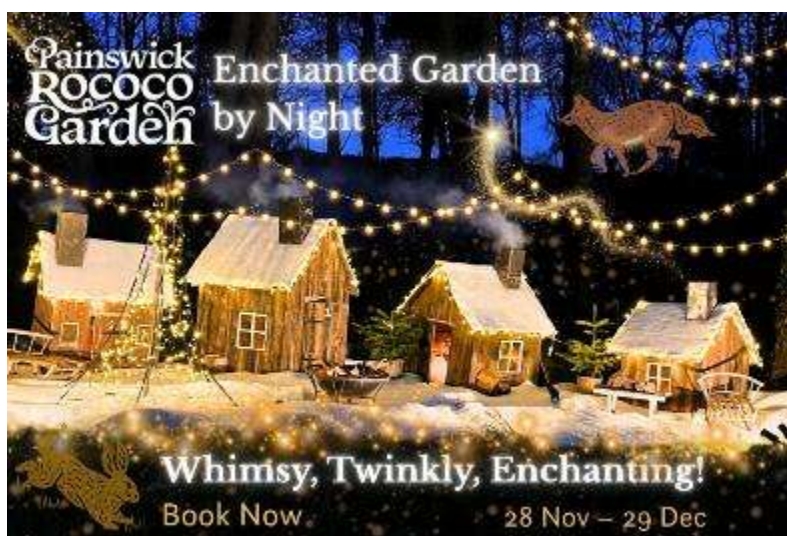
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## Lifts to Church

There are also several people in and around Painswick who are unable to get to church without a lift at present. Although there are some people already offering lifts on a regular basis, if you are able to help by offering an occasional lift, please get in touch with Delyth Allen (contact details above). Similarly, if you yourself are in need of a lift to a church service at another church and are struggling to find help, please let Delyth know so she can try to assist you with this.

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Rococo's Enchanted Garden



A Festive Stroll Through the Enchanted Garden

Looking for something magical to do with the family this festive season? Painswick Rococo Garden is once again opening its gates for *Enchanted Garden by Night* – now in its third year and fast becoming a favourite local tradition.

Until 29 December, the garden will be transformed into a glowing wonderland. Imagine strolling along twinkling paths, spotting beautifully lit follies, and discovering a cosy cabin village tucked away in the woodland. It's brighter, bolder

and more enchanting than ever, yet still relaxed enough for all ages to enjoy.

Tickets remain good value – **£18 for adults, £9 for children (ages 4–16), or £50 for a family of four**. Relaxed sessions are available on selected evenings, and yes, dogs on short leads are welcome, too.

You can enjoy an exclusive 10% discount with the code **Beacon10** when booking.

Please note, the garden will be closed during the day throughout December, reopening on 17 January for the snowdrop season.

Why not wrap up warm, gather the family, and make some memories that will last well into the new year?

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**Painswick Community LUNCHES**

**Where:** Painswick Town Hall  
**When:** Mondays 12 - 1.15pm

*Variety of vegetable soups, freshly baked bread, butter and cheese.*

**Hosted by local groups**

|               |                                    |
|---------------|------------------------------------|
| 5th January   | St Mary's Church                   |
| 12th January  | Christian Aid                      |
| 19th January  | Local History Society              |
| 26th January  | Yew Trees WI                       |
| 2nd February  | Croft Primary School               |
| 9th February  | Croft Primary School               |
| 16th February | Falcon Bowls Club                  |
| 23rd February | Churches Together Around Painswick |
| 2nd March     | Painswick Bowling Club             |

**Suggested donation £4**

Money raised donated to local charities

PAINSWICK COMMUNITY HUB



## Can you help? Community Lunches

**January 5<sup>th</sup> 12-1.15pm Town Hall**

St. Mary's is hosting the first community lunch after Christmas.

Offers of soup needed and one or two more helpers needed to serve, wash up etc.

Please contact Delyth Allen on 07854262517 or [delythallen58@gmail.com](mailto:delythallen58@gmail.com) if you can help.

Please also support by coming along for a bowl of homemade soup, bread and cheese, T&C.

Cash donations go to local charities/community groups.




**AGEING GRACEFULLY**  
 A PRACTICAL THEOLOGY OF LATER LIFE

Written by Dr Ian Donald, a retired Consultant Gerontologist, this course helps us explore how we can respond to the challenges we face in the later stages of life – both in ourselves and caring for those we love

**DATES: FRIDAYS**

**16 JANUARY: WHAT DO WE MEAN BY AGEING?**

**30 JANUARY: DISCOVERING GOD'S PURPOSE FOR OUR AGEING**

**13 FEBRUARY: PRAYING FOR HEALING IN THE FRAILTY OF OLD AGE**

**27 FEBRUARY: GIVING AND RECEIVING CARE**

**13 MARCH: DEMENTIA AND PERSONHOOD**

**27 MARCH: DYING WELL**

**TIME: 11.45 TO 1.15PM**

**VENUE: PAINSWICK TOWN HALL**

**COST: £15 PER PERSON FOR ALL 6 SESSIONS - INCLUDING A STUDY GUIDE & REFRESHMENTS**

INTERESTED? THEN CONTACT: FRANCES WATSON 07779173373 EMAIL [FRAN@CRANHAMVILLAGEHALL.COM](mailto:FRAN@CRANHAMVILLAGEHALL.COM) OR PIPPA MEDCALF 07740514230 EMAIL [PIPPA.MEDCALF@NHS.NET](mailto:PIPPA.MEDCALF@NHS.NET)

## Coffee Hotspots

**Pitchcombe Coffee Morning** Second Tuesday of the month.

**Edge Coffee Morning** Last Friday of the month, at 10.30am in Edge Village Hall.

**Sheepscombe Coffee Morning** First & third Thursdays of the month, 10.00am to 11.30am in Sheepscombe Village Hall.

**Cranham Pop-up Café** Every Tuesday and Friday (10.00am to 1.00pm) in Cranham Village Hall.

### Painswick Community Hub Coffee Morning

Every Friday, 10.00am to 11.30am, in Painswick Town Hall. Tea, coffee and homemade cakes

## Contacts



Rector: Revd Sarah Haslam Tel: 07870 126048  
Email: [beaconrector@gmail.com](mailto:beaconrector@gmail.com) (Usual day of rest: Friday)

Beacon Intercessory Prayer Coordinator: Mike Campbell  
Tel: 07812 000646 Email: [beaconbeneficeministry@gmail.com](mailto:beaconbeneficeministry@gmail.com)

Beacon All Ages Minister: Victoria Soutar  
Email: [familyhub@beaconbenefice.org.uk](mailto:familyhub@beaconbenefice.org.uk)

Benefice Administrator: Anna Favier-Brannan  
Tel: 01452 814795 / 07356 246338 Email: [beaconbeneficeoffice@gmail.com](mailto:beaconbeneficeoffice@gmail.com)  
Benefice Office: The Lychgate, Stroud Road, Painswick, GL6 6UT  
Website: [www.beaconbenefice.org.uk](http://www.beaconbenefice.org.uk)

Beacon Weddings Coordinator: Canon Helen Sammon  
Email: [weddings@beaconbenefice.org.uk](mailto:weddings@beaconbenefice.org.uk)

Benefice Safeguarding Team:  
Cranham, Harescombe, Painswick and Pitchcombe – Diane Blandford  
Email: [diane.blandford@icloud.com](mailto:diane.blandford@icloud.com)  
Edge – Ann Kennett Email: [a.kennett279@gmail.com](mailto:a.kennett279@gmail.com)  
Sheepscombe – Tessa Lentel Email: [tessalentel@aol.com](mailto:tessalentel@aol.com)

Painswick Pastoral Assistant: Delyth Allen Tel: 07854262517 Email: [delythallen58@gmail.com](mailto:delythallen58@gmail.com)  
Please contact Delyth for help to arrange lifts to church or home visits (including Communion).

Painswick Church Rooms Bookings Coordinator: Margaret Radway Tel: 07896430107  
Email: [margaret.radway@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:margaret.radway@tiscali.co.uk)

The Painswick Community Support initiative provides community support for Painswick.  
If you need support, please contact 07956 203087 [painswickcommunity@gmail.com](mailto:painswickcommunity@gmail.com)

Cranham Community Response Team: The initial contact for Cranham residents is  
[jennybarracough.cranhampc@gmail.com](mailto:jennybarracough.cranhampc@gmail.com)

## Beacon Light Editorial Information

Deadline for all submissions to Beacon Light (news, dates of events and services, Beacon People additions & amendments, and posters in JPEG or PDF format): **Sunday, for Friday's publication.**

## Church Opening Times

**Cranham** 10am – 5pm  
**Painswick** 9.30am – 5pm  
**Pitchcombe** 9am – 5pm

**Edge** 8am – 5pm  
**Harescombe** always open  
**Sheepscombe** 8am – 4pm

## Christmas Blessing

May the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds,  
the perseverance of the wise men,  
the obedience of Joseph and Mary  
and the peace of the Christ-child be yours this Christmas.

**Amen.**

