

BEACON LIGHT

...Linking the Beacon Parishes

What's on this week

Sunday 22 nd February	1 st Sunday of Lent	
9.30am	Pitchcombe	Holy Communion
11.00am	Sheepscombe	Holy Communion
11.00am	Cranham	Morning Worship
11.00am	Painswick	Beacon Praise – with Hope Price, author & guest speaker on Angels

Monday 23 rd February 7.00pm	The Church Rooms	ALPHA ?
Tuesday 24 th February 9.00am	Painswick	Morning Prayer <i>with coffee</i>
Wednesday 25 th February 9.00am	Via Zoom	Beacon Prayer <i>Email: lindsay.gardiner@icloud.com or Karen: kriding07@yahoo.co.uk</i>
Thursday 26 th February 9.30am	Via Zoom	Northumbrian Morning Prayer <i>Email Karen (as above) for link</i>

Sunday 1 st March	2 nd Sunday of Lent	
11.00am	Cranham	Benefice Communion

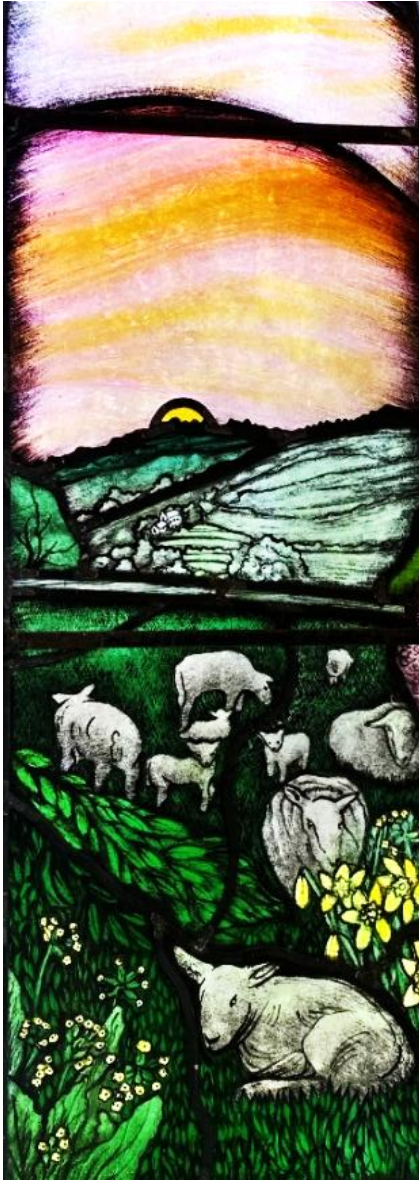
~~~~~

### Collect for the First Sunday of Lent

Holy God,  
our lives are laid open before you:  
rescue us from the chaos of sin  
and through the death of your Son  
bring us healing and make us whole  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

~~~~~



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

Our prayers are asked for all who are unwell or injured in mind, body or spirit, especially **Julie Berry, Liz Flint, Jean Garratt, Irene Hodges, Valerie-Ann Hutton, Peter Jenkins, Elaine Leach, Denise Magauran, Mary Morse, Sue Pouncey, Don Say, Hazel Stacey, David Swinson, 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 **Ian Eastwood, Joy Edwards, Chris Garrett, Alan Graham, Hilary Kohler, Bill Lambell, John Lendon, Barbara O'Dwyer, Jean Ward and Christine West.** 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.

The Funeral of **Rev'd Christopher Garret** will take place at **St Mary's, Painswick** on **24th February** at **11am.**

Hilary Kohler's funeral will take place at **St Mary's, Painswick** on **3rd March** at **12.30pm.**

Christine West's Thanksgiving service will take place on **9th March** at **1.30pm** at **St Mary's Church, Painswick.**

~~~~~

## GOOD NEWS

### St Mary's Mums Family Welcomes New Baby Boy

St. Mary's Mums are delighted to hear of a new arrival! Suzanne and Tim welcomed Dominic into the world earlier this month, a baby brother for James. We pray that they soon settle into their new family dynamics and are looking forward to seeing them back at our baby and toddler group soon.



~~~~~

Wedding Joy

Meanwhile, congratulations to former Cranham churchwarden Linda de Cossart and her partner Jo, who tied the knot in a civil ceremony last weekend. We wish them every blessing.





Baptisms at St Mary's

St Mary's celebrated a double baptism recently at their family service. Katie and John Sacre, who were married in Painswick a couple of years ago, brought their young toddler Freddie to be baptised (pictured with his prized 'Sherlock' sheep – which he was given to show that he is part of the flock now, too).

In conversations preparing the family for the baptism it then transpired that John's best friend Richard (also pictured here), was wanting to make this commitment, too! Praise God – and please do keep them all in your prayers.



Alpha Week 5: How and Why Do We Pray?



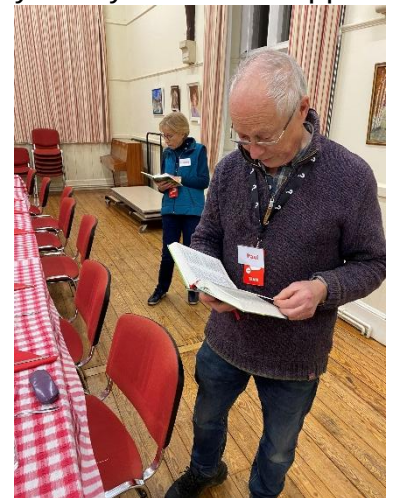
This week we learned about Why and How to Pray. It's not always easy, particularly if prayers don't seem to be answered or if the answer is delayed. But it's a good discipline, and anyway prayer is essential for deepening our relationship with Jesus.

Somebody suggested to me recently that a teaspoon (tsp) of prayer regularly is a good habit. **T = Thank You, S = Sorry, P = Please.** Stir in a prayer every time you have a cuppa! Not a bad idea!



Pictured Left: Nigel, from Pitchcombe church, who volunteers to be our tech guy each week as well as help in our group discussions at Alpha.

Pictured right: Lindsay (Painswick church) and Paul (Sheepscombe church) – caught swotting up on some last-minute bible reading ahead of Alpha last week!



St Mary's Mums Toddlers

At toddlers last week the children had lots of fun making Valentines gifts for their loved ones - Thank you, Margaret, for keeping them all entertained - they loved it.

Vics Soutar



Sherlock Supper: 'Jesus turns water into wine'

At our Sherlock Supper last week we welcomed 13 families from across the Benefice to help Sherlock investigate Jesus turning water into wine – the first miracle that Jesus did at the wedding in Cana (John 2:1-11).

Children enjoyed making hearts and flowers to give to someone they love, had a go at water bottle skittles and tried to beat their friend at the picking up cups game! They also made a spinning picture that turned water into wine.

Then we gathered together and tried to spot the objects from the Treasure Hunt in the Go Chatter Lego video of The Wedding at Cana. We talked about how much Jesus loved the bridegroom, how he didn't want him to be embarrassed at his wedding by running out of wine, so Jesus miraculously turned the water into wine. That was his first miracle and he hasn't stopped since. We also wondered what miracles we might see God doing in our own lives.

After that we went across for a delicious chilli, followed by chocolate brownies. Thank you to Helen Sammon for preparing our tasty food. It was lovely to see all the families and helpers chatting together and it's definitely starting to feel like a lovely community.

Thank you to all the team on the day and in advance preparations, who made the evening such a success. We pray that God will use the tiny seeds we are planting, to grow into faith in each and everyone who came. *Vics Soutar*



~~~~~

## What's coming up...



### Lent Lunches

This Lent the Painswick Valley Christian Aid Committee is hosting Lent lunches of vegetable soup, bread and fruit as we remember the poor of the world for whom our simple lunch would be a feast. All welcome, including children. *Donations to Christian Aid.*

Lunches will be served from **midday to 2pm** at the following locations:

- **Tuesday 3 March** - Overdell, Longridge, Sheepscombe, host Liz Davies, 01452 812211

- **Wednesday 11 March** - Windycot, Cranham, host Helen Sammon, 01452 341688
- **Thursday 12 March** - The Gate House, Back Edge Lane, Edge, hosts Barbara & Martin Freeman, 01452 814805
- **Monday 16 March** - Rudge House, Edge Road, Painswick, host Katherine Davies, 01452 812966
- **Monday 23 March** - Cranwood, Lower Washwell, Painswick, host Frances Watson, 01452 812071



## World Day of Prayer Friday, 6th March – Save the Date

This years' service is written by the women of Nigeria and is very moving. Please save the date - venue, and time to be confirmed next week.



## Harescombe's Daffodil Weekend

Back for the third year running on 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> March.

Please come along and enjoy the sight of our churchyard full of wild daffodils; stroll amongst the old chest tombs; take a peek inside our 14th Century Church especially decorated to celebrate the daffodils and then take the short walk down to the parish hall where you can view the newly created burial plan of the churchyard; read some of the fascinating history about families who lived in the village many years ago and who are buried in the churchyard; admire the beautiful quilts created by Elizabeth Mayo and then enjoy a well-earned tea or coffee and a piece of home-made cake. Donations towards refreshments would be welcome. We are praying for dry weather and that the daffodils are fully open.

## PAINSWICK MUSIC SOCIETY

### ADAM HERON PIANO TRIO

Saturday March 14th at 3pm.

Adam Heron began his musical education at The King's School, Gloucester where his superb skills were already abundantly evident, both as a chorister in the Cathedral Choir and as a pianist. He rose to prominence following his 2018 television debut as a BBC Young Musician Piano Finalist and the winner of the 2020 Harriet Cohen Bach Prize. Adam commands a demanding schedule of international recital engagements, having already performed at distinguished venues including the Wigmore Hall, St Martin-in-the-Fields and the Southbank



Centre. Adam will be joined by two other rising stars: violinist, Cristina Dimitrova and cellist, Dequan Smith. They will be playing music by Haydn and Schumann as well as two pieces composed by Adam. Tickets: [www.painswickmusicsoc.co.uk](http://www.painswickmusicsoc.co.uk)

~~~~~

Home Communion, Home Visits and Lifts to Church

If you are in need of home communion, please contact Delyth Allen (Pastoral Assistant) on 07854 262617 or by email: delythallen58@gmail.com who will be only too happy to arrange this. 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.

~~~~~

## Sheepscombe Home Group

Our group meets 10.30am to 12 noon weekly on Wednesdays. 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 welcome.

We have lots of chat and have coffee with cake and or biscuits too! Where? **Paul and Angie Ryan's in Sheepscombe**. If you might like to come or know more do contact Paul 07485 253388, or Angie 07816 451446.

~~~~~

Your church needs you!

PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY AND JOYFULLY!

Our churches are working hard to share the Gospel and keep our buildings warm and welcoming. Could you please think and pray about whether you are able to tithe regularly to help us?

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



Edae



Sheepscombe




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 07779473373 EMAIL FRAN@TCCRAN@OUTLOOK.COM OR PIPPA MEDCALF 07740514230 EMAIL PIPPA.MEDCALF@NHS.NET



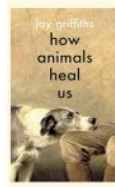
In conversation with...

Join us for First Thursdays at The Painswick Centre when we interview local authors and writers from further afield. Meet the author, get your book signed, meet fellow book lovers and enjoy a glass of wine

Buy your tickets at

www.firstthursdaypainswick.co.uk

Announcing our Spring Season



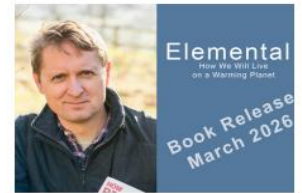
Jay Griffiths- How Animals Heal Us
 5th February 2026
 19:30 – 21:00 (Doors open at 7pm)



Keggie Carew-Dadland
 12th March 2026
 19:30 – 21:00 (Doors open at 7pm)



Alice Jolly – The Matchbox Girl
 7th May 2026
 19:30 – 21:00 (Doors open at 7pm)



Arthur Snell – Elemental
 How we will live on a warming planet.
 4th June 2026
 19:30 – 21:00 (Doors open at 7pm)

Location: The Painswick Centre, Bisley Street, Painswick, GL6 6QQ

~~~~~



## Coffee Hotspots

**Pitchcombe Coffee Morning** Second Tuesday of the month, at 10.30am in Pitchcombe Church.

~~~~~

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



**Stroud  
Deanery**

**PRAY**

**INVITE**

**CREATE**

**CHANGE**

### **Communication**

**Do you know someone who could be involved in developing a communications strategy?**

#### Outputs:

A deanery-wide communications strategy (branding, storytelling, digital presence).

Professionalised digital media (website, social media, video, live-streaming).

Training for parishes in local comms and digital engagement.

### **Ministry & Leadership**

**Do you know someone who could be part of a group involved in helping create a deanery plan for deployment of clergy?**

#### Outputs:

A deanery-wide plan for clergy and lay deployment.

Training and encouragement for lay ministries and vocations.

Strategic posts to resource transformation: DTL (3 years), Family Worker, Stroudwater Missioner.

Outcome: Clergy and lay leaders deployed wisely, resourced well, and released to serve in mission and ministry.

### **Buildings Finance and Assets**

**Do you know someone who could be part of a deanery finance group or a deanery buildings group?**

#### Outputs:

A deanery-wide buildings audit.

Shared expertise in maintenance, contracts, and community use.

Clear plans for buildings which cannot be sustained.

Shared financial strategies and accountability.

Outcome: Church buildings that are fit for purpose, mission-focused, and sustainable.

Please ask anyone interested to contact Sally Withers  
[sally@stroud-deanery.org.uk](mailto:sally@stroud-deanery.org.uk)

~~~~~

Church Contacts

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

Beacon Intercessory Prayer Coordinator: Mike Campbell
Tel: 07812 000646 Email: beaconbeneficeministry@gmail.com

Beacon All Ages Minister: Victoria Soutar
Email: familyhub@beaconbenefice.org.uk

Benefice Administrator: Anna Favier-Brannan
Tel: 01452 814795 / 07356 246338 Email: beaconbeneficeoffice@gmail.com

Benefice Office: The Lychgate, Stroud Road, Painswick, GL6 6UT
Website: www.beaconbenefice.org.uk

Beacon Weddings Co-ordinator: Canon Helen Sammon
Email: weddings@beaconbenefice.org.uk

Benefice Safeguarding Team:
Cranham, Harescombe, Painswick and Pitchcombe – Diane Blandford
Email: diane.blandford@icloud.com

Edge – Ann Kennett Email: a.kennett279@gmail.com
Sheepscombe – Tessa Lentel Email: tessalentel@aol.com

Painswick Pastoral Assistant: Delyth Allen Tel: 07854 262517
Email: delythallen58@gmail.com
Please contact Delyth for help to arrange lifts to church or home visits (including Communion).

Painswick Church Rooms Bookings Co-ordinator:
Margaret Radway Tel: 07896 430107
Email: 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

Cranham Community Response Team: The initial contact for Cranham residents is
jennybarracough.cranhampc@gmail.com



Pictured above: Safeguarding Officer Diane Blandford

Meet Diane, one of our Safeguarding Officers. Diane is the first point of contact for any safeguarding concerns in Cranham, Harescombe, Painswick and Pitchcombe.

~~~~~

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

~~~~~

Blessing

May Christ the Son of God perfect in us the image of His glory and gladden our hearts with the good news of His kingdom. **Amen.**