

BEACON LIGHT

...Linking the Beacon Parishes

What's on this week

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

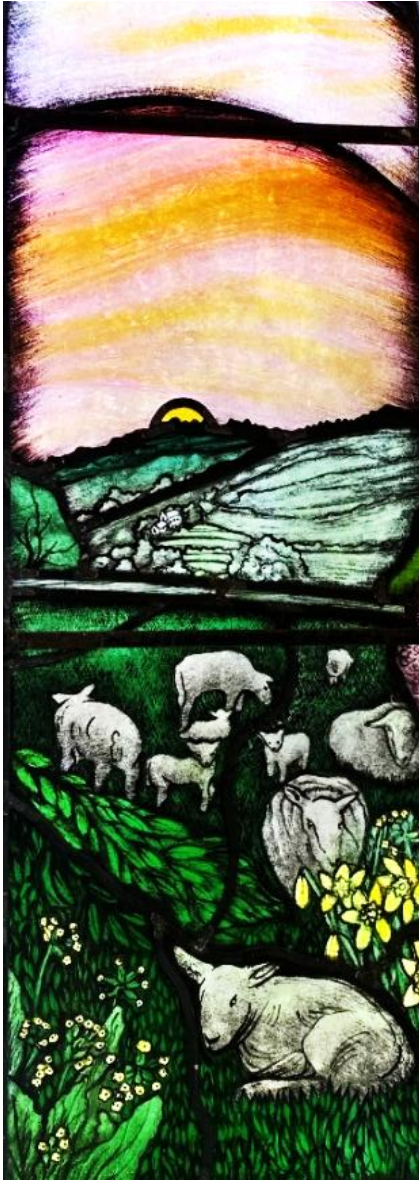
Monday 2 nd March 8.30am	Sheepscombe	Early Bird Prayer
Monday 2 nd March 7.00pm	The Church Rooms	ALPHA ?
Tuesday 3 rd March 9.00am	Painswick	Morning Prayer <i>with coffee</i>
Wednesday 4 th March 9.00am	Via Zoom	Beacon Prayer <i>Email: lindsay.gardiner@icloud.com or Karen: kriding07@yahoo.co.uk</i>
Wednesday 4 th March 11.30am	Richmond	Holy Communion
Thursday 5 th March 9.30am	Via Zoom	Northumbrian Morning Prayer <i>Email Karen (as above) for link</i>
Saturday 7 th March 10am – 4pm	North Woodchester	ALPHA ? Away Day

Sunday 8 th March	3 rd Sunday of Lent	
9.30am	Pitchcombe	Morning Worship
9.30am	Painswick	Holy Communion (BCP)
9.30am	<u>Harescombe</u> with Edge	Daffodil Service
11.00am	Painswick	Family Worship 
11.00am	Cranham	Holy Communion

Collect for the Second Sunday of Lent

Almighty God,
by the prayer and discipline of Lent
may we enter into the mystery of Christ's sufferings,
and by following in his Way
come to share in his glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen



Beacon People and Prayers

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

Beacon Intercessory Prayer Co-ordinator: 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, Basil Butler, Liz Flint, Jean Garratt, Irene Hodges, Valerie-Ann Hutton, Peter Jenkins, Elaine Leach, Denise Magauran, 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 **Graham Baker, Ian Eastwood, Joy Edwards, Chris Garrett, Alan Graham, Michael James, Hilary Kohler, Bill Lambell, John Lendon, Mary Morse, 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.

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

Ian Eastwood's funeral will take place at **St Mary's Church, Painswick** on Wednesday **4th March** at **12 noon.**

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

Graham Baker's Funeral will take place at **Prinknash Abbey** on **Thursday 12th March 2026** at **11am.**

The Thanksgiving service for **Michael James** will take place at **St John the Baptist in Pitchcombe** on **24th March 2026** at **2pm.**

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## News from around the Benefice...

### Ash Wednesday

The Ash Wednesday Benefice Service was held on Wednesday February 17th at Painswick church, followed by lunch in the Church Rooms. Rev Andrew Leach led the congregation in a time of reflection, in which we were all invited to receive the sign of the cross, in ashes, on our foreheads. This was offered as an outward sign of inward repentance, on the first day of Lent. (The ashes were from leaves from the previous year's Palm Sunday crosses which were burned.)



Contemplative organ music was provided before and after the service by Francis Sanville. The service was followed by a delicious soup lunch provided and served by Karen and Robert Goddard and Jane Burt. This hot meal was gratefully received on such a cold day. A personal challenge from Andrew's sermon was to try to be less 'busy' if we can during Lent and to declutter our lives. For example, by asking ourselves if such things as our mobile phones or other things might be cluttering up our day and instead to keep our focus on Jesus. Thank you to everyone who made this a special start to the season of Lent. *Ali Sanville*



## Alpha Week 6

We are now half-way through our Alpha course, and at Alpha this week we studied **Why and How to read the Bible**. There was a general sense that we have all started to feel more comfortable in being open and honest about where we are in our faith journeys, and a number of our discussion group leaders reported there have been some very meaningful conversations taking place, as trust in relationships has deepened. We thought about how relevant, how true, and how precious the Word of God is. We also learned that one



particular Bible App – You Version – has been downloaded over 1 billion times. Incredible! Revd. Sarah offered copies of Mark's gospel for people to take home if they didn't have a Bible and wanted to give it a try. One group leader said afterwards: "it's a really good group, and the guests all agreed they are enjoying the sessions, and feel our group is a safe place, without judgment, to express themselves". Praise the Lord. Please keep Alpha in your prayers as we continue to share and receive the Gospel, and grow in friendship, too.



*Pictured (from left): Through serving together at Alpha, Jane, Niki and Pauline are fast becoming thick as thieves – if you'll excuse the phrase!!*



## Fond farewell

Cranham PCC has recently said a fond farewell to its churchwarden since April 2019, Linda de Cossart. She has provided inspirational leadership within the church, and around the village. In particular, during the vacancy and throughout Covid, as well as being the sole churchwarden for the last two years, Linda had been a rock to all around her. She has left with everyone's grateful thanks and best wishes, as she moves back to Cheshire, with her wedding last Saturday to Jo Richardson. Linda will be greatly missed by us all.

## Information Board for the Churchyard

In 2023 the Painswick Valleys Conservation Society approached St. Mary's church with an offer to provide an information board for the churchyard. The very generous offer met with enthusiasm from the PCC and the design and planning process began, ably co-ordinated by Carolyn Luke. The project took rather longer than anticipated, but the end result was well worth the wait. The board is located adjacent to the footpath close to the tourist information office, and will be of great interest to visitors and Painswickians alike. Many people had input to the text, design and layout of the board at various stages of iteration. Thanks are due to them, and to Peter Rowe for photographs of the tombstones, Jonathan Jarvis for the aerial view of the churchyard and Jane Kilpatrick and Jennifer Harmer for the tomb trail, which is accessible through the QR code on the board.

*The photograph shows the board shortly after installation with Carolyn Luke, John Luke and Fraser Leggate of the Conservation Society, Revd. Sarah Haslam and Dylan Davies from St. Mary's and two generations of the Luke family.*



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What's On This Week

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.

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### World Day of Prayer

#### Churches Together around Painswick

World Day of Prayer  
**Friday March 6th at 11.30am**  
Our Lady and St Therese Church



The women of Nigeria have created a service that speaks to our need for peace and solace, drawing on their faith and experiences in a world filled with struggles and anxieties. Everyone is very welcome. Refreshments afterwards.



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Harescombe's Daffodil Weekend

Back for the third year running on 7th - 8th March.

Please come along and enjoy the sight of our churchyard full of wild daffodils and 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.

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## 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



## An Evening of Adventure

**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March 7.30pm – 9pm**  
**The Croft School**

This is an incredible opportunity to hear a world-famous explorer and professional speaker give a talk about his adventures.

Ben Saunders, who has completed many arctic expeditions, will be sharing some of his fascinating stories and answering questions in 'an evening with wine and adventures'.

[Grab a ticket before they sell out!](#)

All proceeds kindly go to the Painswick Playgroup and The Friends of the Croft School.

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ADVENTURE



Ben Saunders is a record-breaking polar explorer, and he lives just down the road from Painswick.

In 2004 he became the third in history to ski solo to the North Pole (no one has repeated the journey since).

In 2014, he finished the 1,800-mile, 108-day Antarctic expedition that defeated Sir Ernest Shackleton and killed Captain Scott.

For one night only, Ben has agreed to share his extraordinary stories to support the Croft Primary School and Painswick Playgroup. [ORDER HERE](#)

£15 per Ticket

(includes glass of Prosecco or soft drink)

SCAN ME!



All proceeds go to The Croft Primary School & Painswick Playgroup

Book your place: <https://www.zeffy.com/en-GB/ticketing/an-evening-of-adventure-2>

PAINSWICK MUSIC SOCIETY PRESENTS 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



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## 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](mailto: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.

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NEW! FROM THE ROCOCO GARDENS: Rococo Garden's March news

March brings a quiet shift in the season at Rococo Garden, as the last of the snowdrops give way to the first sweep of spring colour.

The garden is now open Wednesday to Sunday, 10am–4pm, offering a peaceful midweek escape as well as relaxed weekend visits. This month, tens of thousands of daffodils are coming into bloom across the slopes and lawns, creating one of the garden's most uplifting displays.

For those who enjoy learning more about horticulture and heritage planting, there will be a free, informal talk every Friday at 2pm. No booking is required; simply join on the day.

Looking ahead, Mother's Day provides a thoughtful opportunity for a shared outing. A gentle walk among the daffodils, followed by time to sit and enjoy the surroundings, makes for an unhurried and memorable way to mark the occasion.

On 21 March Rococo's Head Gardener will lead a Snowdrop Masterclass. Participants will learn expert techniques for dividing, planting and caring for snowdrops, with practical guidance drawn from the garden's renowned collection. Attendees will also take home a snowdrop to establish in their own gardens. This promises to be an engaging session.

Whether visiting for quiet reflection, seasonal inspiration, or simply a change of scenery, March is a rewarding time to experience the garden as it moves confidently into spring.



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## 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.**

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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



Edge



Sheepscombe



Coffee Hotspots

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

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

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

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

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

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

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## Church Opening Times

**Cranham** 10am – 5pm

**Painswick** 9.30am – 5pm

**Pitchcombe** 9am – 5pm

**Edge** 8am – 5pm

**Harescombe** always open

**Sheepscombe** 8am – 4pm

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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.**



Easter Appeal

This Easter, please help us support families in our community facing hardship

Donate Food



Donate whilst you shop at our supermarket collection points at:-
Tesco Stroud & Cam
Waitrose Stroud
Sainsbury's Stroud
Most local co-ops
Or bring directly to your church collection point or our warehouse

Donate Money



A monetary donation helps us buy exactly what's needed most and supports families with dignity and choice. It also covers operational costs including running our warehouse and centres. Donate at: strouddistrict.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-money
Or scan the QR code below

Shopping list

Tinned ham/corned beef

Tinned vegetables

Tinned meat meals

Jam/peanut butter

Coffee & milk (UHT)

Fruit juice & squash

Tinned fruit

Tinned rice pudding

Laundry liquid

Toilet Rolls

Warehouse: Unit 19, Canal Iron Works, Hope Mill Lane, Brimscombe, GL5 2SH
Open: Mon-Fri 10am-12pm (please call to arrange a drop-off outside of these hours)

Special Open Morning for donations Saturday 28th March 10-12
Tel: 01453 367 077 Email: office@strouddistrictfoodbank.org.uk
<https://strouddistrict.foodbank.org.uk>

Registered Charity in England & Wales 1176306







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 FRANATCRAN@OUTLOOK.COM OR PIPPA MEDCALF 07740514230 EMAIL PIPPA.MEDCALF@NHS.NET