

BEACON LIGHT

...Linking the Beacon Parishes

What's on this week

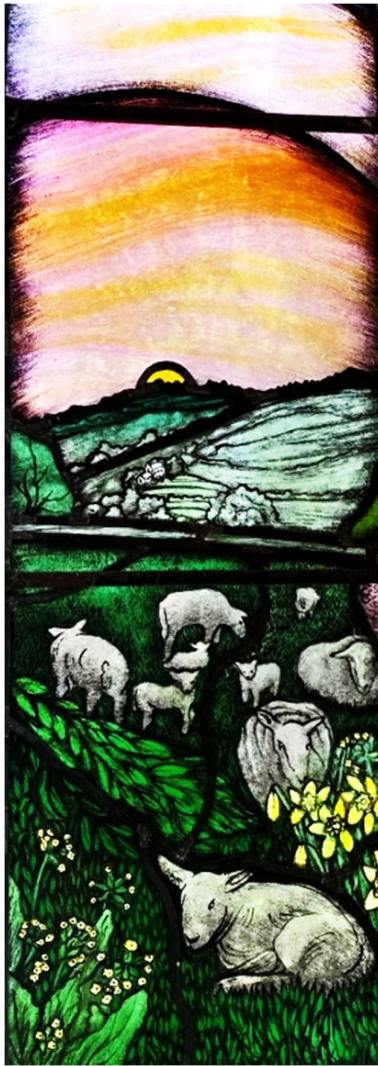
Sunday 22 nd March	5 th Sunday of Lent	
9.30am	Pitchcombe	Holy Communion
11.00am	Sheepscombe	Holy Communion
11.00am	Painswick	Beacon Praise
6.30pm	Cranham	Evensong (<i>BCP</i>)

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

Sunday 29 th March	Palm Sunday	
11.00am	Painswick 	Benefice Procession of the Palms and Family Communion

Collect for the Fifth Sunday of Lent

Gracious Father,
 you gave up your Son
 out of love for the world:
 lead us to ponder the mysteries of his passion,
 that we may know eternal peace
 through the shedding of our Saviour's blood,
 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, 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, Sue Dunnett, Ian Eastwood, Chris Garrett, Michael James, Hilary Kohler, Bill Lambell, Mary Morse, Barbara O'Dwyer, 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.

Mary Morse's funeral will take place at **John the Baptist in Pitchcombe** on **23rd March** at **12.45pm.**

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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## Baptisms



Please pray for James and Alexander Compton who are being baptised on 12th April at St Mary's Painswick by Revd Helen as part of the family service at 11am. As usual, everyone is really welcome to come along to our worship and support the boys and their family.



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Annual Parochial Church Council Meeting (APCCM) Announcement

We are pleased to announce that our Annual Parochial Church Council Meetings (APCCMs) will take place in the respective churches (unless stated otherwise) as follows:

Edge - 19th April at 10.30am

**Painswick - 23rd April supper at 6.15pm
in the Church Rooms, meeting due
to start at 7pm.**

Sheepscombe - 19th April at 12.30pm

Pitchcombe - 22nd April at 2pm

Cranham - 26th April at 12.30pm

Harescombe - 12th May at 12 noon



Alpha Week 9

ALPHA Week 9 helped us to think about **How Can I Resist Evil?** A challenging video was then followed by boisterous discussion. After the high experience of the Away Day, which for some is like a 'mountain top experience', there can often be a bit of a 'downer', with various things going wrong and which tests our faith. But maybe it's also a sign that God is at work. He certainly seems to be doing plenty in this



ALPHA Course. Numbers are holding up with only two weeks to go, and some people say they are even going to miss it when it finishes. But worry not! Sarah has plans up her sleeve to help us all keep going deeper with the Lord - watch the space here in Beacon Light!

Pictured above are some of the team having a joyful moment in prayer before we had our supper on Monday. As ever, the catering and the company was excellent. Thanks for your continued support and prayers. *Revd Paul Kenchington*



Toddler Group Plus



Following St. Mary's Mums this week we headed to the church for our Toddler Group Plus. Five families explored the Easter Story and made palm branches with which to praise God, as we danced to some worship music. *Vics Soutar*



Mothering Sunday

Mothering Sunday in Painswick

Another name for Mothering Sunday is Refreshment Sunday – half way through the Holy season of Lent. We certainly had a most refreshing time at St. Mary's Mothering Sunday Communion service, with over 80 communicants and 15 children in attendance. Pictured, we see Pam Swain with granddaughter Heidi. The children helped to make the traditional posies for distribution to their mothers and other members of the large congregation following the Peace. It was a most inspiring and uplifting act of worship. *Revd David*



Mothering Sunday in Sheepscombe



A happy time was had by all as we celebrated Mothering Sunday at St John's in Sheepscombe. Revd Sarah led us through the story of Moses's birth in Exodus, reminding us that nothing is impossible with God. And, having heard the words in Jeremiah 29:11 "*I know the plans I have for you,*" declares the Lord, "*plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future*", we gave thanks not only for mothers but for all those who care for us.

We remembered, too, women around the world living under

tyranny and in war zones, in countries where they are viewed as second-class citizens, all who risk their lives to tend to, feed, stand up for or safeguard the wellbeing of children and the vulnerable to give them hope and a future.

Everyone received a posy and then stayed on for tasty refreshments and good conversation. *Karen Riding*

Mothering Sunday in Edge



Friends from Pitchcombe, Harescombe and Edge met on Sunday morning to celebrate Mothering Sunday in a Communion Service led by Revd Helen Sammon. We had been encouraged to bring favourite photographs of our mothers and these were displayed along with the posies and chocolates that were ready to be distributed at the end of the service.

Sally, Viv and Barbara read some accounts of the challenges which affect mothers in Sudan, Kenya and the UK, and gave information about specific charities working with mothers and other carers in these countries. Mary read the Bible passage from Colossians and Anne prepared and read the intercession prayers. Helen's talk focused on 'Mothering' and reflected on the love of God for us.

After Communion, the posies were blessed and then the children present distributed flowers and the chocolates which had been made by Viv. The usual selection of refreshments were available after the service, and there was the opportunity for social fellowship. *Barbara Freeman*

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## What's On This Week

### Painswick Church Spring Clean Morning! Saturday 21st March - 9.30-12 noon

A quick reminder for all who are willing to join us, even for an hour, to help Spring Clean our beautiful Church. Please bring your own light weight equipment for whatever you might like to do: *window cleaning (step ladder provided), brush and pan, duster, spray polish, cloths, mop, bucket, long handle cobweb duster/brush etc. (vacuum cleaner provided).*

Coffees, teas, available.

Many hands make light work!

Thank you, the Church Wardens.



### 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.* Lunch will be served from **midday to 2pm** at the following location:

- **Monday 23 March** - Cranwood, Lower Washwell, Painswick, host Frances Watson, 01452 812071





## Painswick Music Society Presents Meliora Collective

### Saturday March 28th at 3pm

The ensemble of dynamic, creative young musicians that make up the Meliora Collective, returns to Painswick this year, following the huge success of their performance at St. Mary's in 2024. We are delighted to welcome them again. As recent graduates of leading UK conservatoires, each of the musicians brings a strong musical identity to the group. Their ethos of shared responsibility and collaborative music making is integral to the ensemble and their performance includes Martinu, Clementi, Cheetham and Beethoven's Septet.

Tickets: [www.painswickmusicsoc.co.uk](http://www.painswickmusicsoc.co.uk)



# Easter for Everyone

Come and worship with us this Holy Week and Easter

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|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>CRANHAM</b><br>Wed 1 April – 6.00pm<br>Film: Humble<br>Fri 3 April – 11.00am<br>Reflective Service with Choir<br>Easter Sunday 5 April – 11.00am<br>Easter Communion | <b>PAINSWICK</b><br>Sun 29 March – 11.00am<br>Benefice Procession of the Palms<br>with Communion<br>Mon 30 March – 7.00pm<br>ALPHA<br>Tue 31 March – 9.00am<br>Morning Prayer<br>Tue 31 March<br>Sherlock Supper<br>Wed 1 April – 10.30am<br>Family Easter Garden Workshop<br>Thu 2 April – 7.30pm<br>Eucharist and Footwashing<br>Fri 3 April – 10.30am<br>Procession of Witness<br>Fri 3 April – 2.00pm<br>Good Friday Devotional<br>Easter Sunday 5 April – 9.30am<br>Easter Communion |
| <b>HARESCOMBE</b><br>Mon 30 March – 9.30am<br>Morning Prayer<br>Mon 30 March – 10.30am<br>Peter Rabbit Hunt!                                                            | <b>EDGE</b><br>Easter Sunday 5 April – 11.00am<br>Easter Communion                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>PITCHCOMBE</b><br>Tue 31 March – 6.30pm<br>Evensong<br>Easter Sunday 5 April – 9.30am<br>Easter Communion                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>SHEEPSCOMBE</b><br>Fri 3 April – 9.30am<br>Good Friday Devotional<br>Easter Sunday 5 April – 11.00am<br>Easter Communion                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |

## Easter For Everyone



You are warmly invited to join us for our Holy Week and Easter services across the Benefice. From Palm Sunday through to the joy of Easter Day, we gather to remember Christ's journey to the cross and to celebrate the hope of the resurrection.

There are services, reflections, and activities taking place throughout the week, and everyone is very welcome. Please see the poster for full details of times and locations and do come and share in this special time.

## Palm Sunday Benefice Service

All are invited to the Benefice Service at Painswick on Palm Sunday, which will include a Procession of the Palms. Bishop Robert has asked that people bring small palm-sized branches or greenery from their gardens to carry in the procession, if possible.



## Harescombe's Peter Rabbit Hunt

Come to Harescombe, where little explorers can follow the trail, search for some of our favourite woodland characters, and enjoy a morning inspired by the beloved tales of Beatrix Potter. Potter had a special connection to the village, as she used to visit Harescombe, where her cousin Caroline lived at Harescombe Grange.

Parking is available - look for the signs. Refreshments and maps £3 (cash only) from the village hall. The hunt runs on **Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March from 10:30am to 12:30pm**, so come along for a delightful morning of woodland fun, fresh air, and springtime adventure!



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Sherlock Investigates Easter

Families are warmly invited to our **Sherlock Supper** at St Mary's, Painswick on **Tuesday 31st March, 4.30–6.00pm**.

Join Sherlock the sheep as we investigate the Easter story together through **crafts, games, and story time**.

There will be a simple supper of **lamb meatballs with pasta followed by crumble and custard**.

Children are welcome but must bring an adult along! Cash donations will be welcome on the door.

Scan the QR code on the poster to book your place and come along for a fun and friendly way to explore the meaning of Easter together.



Come and Make an Easter Garden!

Join us at **St Mary's Church, Painswick** on **Wednesday 1st April, 10.30am–12.30pm**, for a fun and creative Easter activity for families. Come along and make your own **Easter Garden**, a lovely way to explore the Easter story through crafts, plants, and creativity. All materials will be provided, and no experience is needed—just bring your imagination!

The cost is **£5 per garden**, and everyone is welcome. To book your place, email familyhub@beaconbenefice.org.uk, or feel free to just drop in on the day.



BEACON MEN'S STUFF

Please join us for coffee, bacon baps and fellowship.
All are welcome!

SAT. 11TH APRIL 2026
9AM ST MARY'S CHURCH ROOMS

For more details and to book your place contact:
Mike Campbell (07812 000646) or
Ian Marsh (07990 578671)

GUEST SPEAKER:
MARTIN KINGSTON KC

Men's Stuff

Attention all Men!

Please save the date **Saturday 11th April at 9 am** in the **Church Rooms**. Our next **MEN'S BREAKFAST**.

Bacon baps, coffee and chat as always.

Guest speaker: **Martin Kingston KC** who will speak on how we handle grief and challenges in our lives.

Martin, who lives with his wife, Jill, in Kemble, was the top lawyer in his field (Development) for over 20 years and presented cases to the Supreme Court on at least two occasions. He represented our Diocese on General Synod and was a member of our Bishop's Council. Two years ago his life was rocked when his son, Tom, took his own life. It was all fairly high profile for reasons Martin may well explain, which meant that the family's grieving was carried out in the public arena. Martin will share something of how his Christian faith spoke into that traumatic and very painful time.

Please be thinking about who you could invite to come with you. It promises to be a moving testimony and challenging for those of us who know men in their 40's.

It would be really helpful if you could let **Mike Campbell 07812 000646** or me know for catering purposes if you able to come. **Ian Marsh 0799 057 8671** iwmarsh21@gmail.com.

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

Home Communion, Home Visits and Lifts to Church

If you are in need of home communion, **please contact Delyth Allen (Pastoral Visitor) 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.

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## 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



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



March brings a quiet seasonal shift at Rococo Garden as the last 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 interested in horticulture and heritage planting, a free informal talk takes place every Friday at 2pm. No booking is required—simply join on the day.

On **21 March**, Rococo's Head Gardener will lead a Snowdrop Masterclass, sharing expert techniques for dividing, planting and caring for snowdrops. Participants will also take home a snowdrop to establish in their own gardens.

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



## **Church 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 Co-ordinator: 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: 07854 262517

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 Co-ordinator: Margaret Radway Tel: 07896 430107

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)

## 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.**

## 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.**



**Ending hunger together**

## 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](http://strouddistrict.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-money)  
Or scan the QR code below

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 28<sup>th</sup> March 10-12  
Tel: 01453 367 077 Email: [office@strouddistrictfoodbank.org.uk](mailto:office@strouddistrictfoodbank.org.uk)  
<https://strouddistrict.foodbank.org.uk>



Registered Charity in England & Wales 1174306

## 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 [FRANATCEAN@OUTLOOK.COM](mailto:FRANATCEAN@OUTLOOK.COM) OR PIPPA MEDCALF 07740514230 EMAIL [PIPPA.MEDCALF@NHS.NET](mailto:PIPPA.MEDCALF@NHS.NET)