

BEACON LIGHT

...Linking the Beacon Parishes

What's on this week

Sunday 24th May	 Pentecost
9.30am	Pitchcombe Holy Communion
11.00am	Sheepscombe Holy Communion
11.00am	Painswick  Beacon Praise + Baptisms
11.00am	Cranham Morning Worship

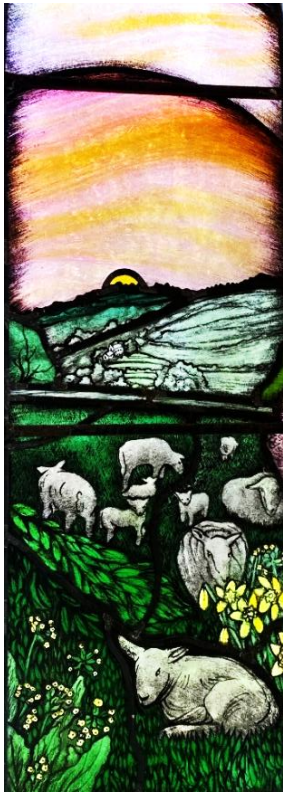
Monday 25 th May	Public Bank Holiday	
Tuesday 26 th May 9.00am	Painswick	Morning Prayer <i>with coffee</i>
Wednesday 27 th May 9.00am	Via Zoom	Beacon Prayer Email: lindsay.gardiner@icloud.com or Karen: kriding07@yahoo.co.uk
Thursday 28 th May 9.30am	Via Zoom	Northumbrian Morning Prayer Email Karen (as above) for link

Sunday 31st May	Trinity Sunday
9.30am	Painswick Family Communion 
11.00am	Sheepscombe Morning Worship
11.00am	Cranham  Family Worship
11.00am	<u>Harescombe</u> with Edge Holy Communion

Collect for the Day of Pentecost

Holy Spirit, sent by the Father,
ignite in us your holy fire;
strengthen your children with the gift of faith,
revive your Church with the breath of love,
and renew the face of the earth,
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 **Irene Hodges, Valerie-Ann Hutton, Peter Jenkins, Elaine Leach, Sue Pouncey, Lyndsay Thomas 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 **Basil Butler, Tom Mahendran, Denise Magauran, Alan Price, Audrey Reeves and Laurence Turner.** 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.

Basil Butler's funeral will take place at **2pm** on **8th June 2026** at **St Mary's Painswick.**



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## Baptisms

Please pray for Samantha and Michael Goddard with their daughter Aeva Mia Goddard and Darren Wheatley who are being baptised into our church family on 24<sup>th</sup> May at St Mary's Painswick by Revd Sarah at 11am. As usual, everyone is really welcome to come along.



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Congratulations



St. Mary's Mums have been excited to meet baby Theo. A little brother for Lily who has been coming to the group from the start. Congratulations to Lizzy and Paul on his safe arrival.

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## Weddings

Please keep Frances and Martin in your prayers following their joyful wedding at St Mary's, Painswick, on Saturday 9th May.

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Lydia Ravenhill

Lydia has asked us to pray for her as she undertakes some work overseas with the Christian charity Through the Roof. Through the Roof works to 'transform the lives of disabled people through Jesus Christ'. Lydia and the team will be travelling to Accra in Ghana with Christian charity 'Through the roof' (<https://throughtheroof.org/>) from 20-29th May.





GOOD NEWS!

*We are delighted to introduce Kate Davies, who will be joining the Beacon Benefice as our **new curate**, following her ordination as deacon at 10.15am on 28th June in Gloucester Cathedral. We encourage you to keep her in your prayers and we look forward to welcoming Kate to our churches and communities and getting to know her in the months ahead.*

Hello everyone, I'm Kate, I'm 52 and live in Upton St Leonards, with my son, William, who is a student at the University of Chichester. I was born in Gloucester and attended local schools before studying Theology at Exeter University. I worked in the construction industry after graduation, also studying part-time for a Master's degree in Religion & Society, before William was born in 2006.

When William started school I began a new career in education, as a Higher Level Teaching Assistant, and in the last few years I was RE Lead as well as Forest School Leader. I was licensed as a Lay Worker in 2023, and I have been PCC Secretary and Deanery Synod representative for my home parish of St Lawrence, Barnwood. I love singing, clerical crime fiction and being outside in nature. I've been training for ministry part-time for the last two years and I'm really looking forward to meeting you all after my ordination on 28th June. I really love to be out in the countryside so I'm thrilled to be coming to the Beacon Benefice, learning with you all about the amazing love that God has for us all, sharing in worship with you and encouraging everyone to be salt and light in our communities.



In Monty's Footsteps: update



This week, Henry's journey in *Monty's Footsteps* brought him face-to-face with remarkable personal stories from the Second World War. He met with Ruth Barnwell, who joined the Women's Royal Naval Service (Wrens) at just 17 years old and was stationed at HMS Quebec. Ruth recalled how, without realising it at the time, she was part of preparations for the D-Day landings—until one morning she woke to find all of the officers had suddenly disappeared, signalling that something significant was underway.

Last week's podcast episode, focused on women and the war, Henry reflected on the extraordinary contributions women made. The episode explored stories of the Wrens, women in the Women's Timber Corps, and the wives and families at the heart of Britain's mining communities, highlighting the resilience and often overlooked roles women played throughout the war.

Henry also visited the Imperial War Museum Duxford alongside his sister, Bella. During their visit, they saw the caravans that served as General Montgomery's mobile headquarters during the war—vehicles with a special personal connection, as Henry and Bella both played in them as children.





As Henry continues retracing his grandfather's wartime journey, these moments of family connection and first-hand testimony continue to bring history vividly to life ahead of his final walk to Normandy on 6 June 2026.

Henry's journey will conclude on **6th June 2026**, the 82nd anniversary of D-Day, when he walks the final 22km across Sword, Juno and Gold beaches, honoring the **22,540 names** on the British Normandy Memorial.

The fundraising target is **£225,400 (£10 for each name)**, with all funds supporting **Operation Remembrance**, the British Normandy

Memorial's education programme, helping preserve these stories for future generations.

[Donate here.](#)

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## Week 2026

Christian Aid week went well in our villages. We kicked off with a lovely service in Edge, led by Helen Sammon. On 9 May creams teas and a garden shop were held at St. Mary's Church Rooms, followed by a salmon supper on 12 May with around 55 attendees. Together the two events raised in excess of £2,000 for Christian Aid's work to alleviate poverty and the effects of climate change.

Drop-off envelopes are still being returned to collection points and the e-envelopes are still open. Thank you so much to those who have supported Christian Aid so generously. Anyone who would have liked to contribute to Christian Aid's work but hasn't yet done so, can still do so online by scanning the relevant QR code below or clicking on the link beneath the QR codes.



Cranham



Painswick, Pitchcombe,  
Edge & Harescombe



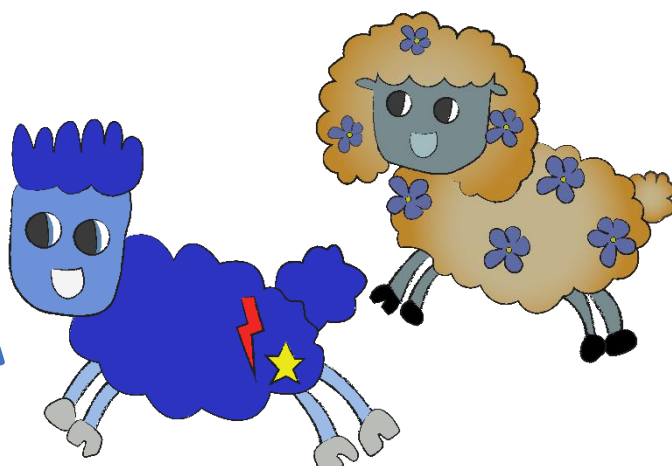
Sheepscombe

<https://fundraise.christianaid.org.uk/envelope-2026/painswick-valley-ca-group>

Thank you, the Painswick Valley Christian Aid Committee

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**A huge thank you
to the team from across the
benefice who helped with the
Sherlock Supper on Thursday.
It was fantastic! Don't forget to
read the next Beacon Light
to hear all about it!**



Week 2 of The Bible Course –

It was fantastic to see everyone come back for week 2 of the Bible Course on Monday, raring to get stuck into the big questions raised by the video as Dr Andrew Ollerton took us through some key parts of Genesis.

We have decided to split into 5 smaller groups for the discussion times, and so it was also lovely to hear that some of the groups are already making plans to meet for a cuppa outside of the course to get to know each other better and to 'swap notes!' on the reading plan.

Huge thanks go to Ali and Niki for serving teas and coffees and doing the washing up, and also to Elizabeth Mayo from Harescombe for providing chocolate cake for us all, too!

PLEASE NOTE: THERE IS NO BIBLE COURSE ON MONDAY 25th MAY AS IT IS A PUBLIC BANK HOLIDAY. WE WILL BE BACK AS USUAL ON MONDAY 1st JUNE.



Evening Praise and Prayer

Twelve people from across the benefice braved the downpour and met in the choir stalls at St Mary's on Tuesday night for an hour of prayer and worship as part of our commitment to pray 'Thy Kingdom Come'. During the evening Revd Sarah reminded us that as we see the world being shaken by conflicts and other signs of creation groaning, we are to remember that God's kingdom is unshakeable as it is built on a foundation of solid rock. Ps 62:6 'He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be shaken.'



The Bible Course:

grasp God's big story in 8 weeks!



Monday nights from 11th May, 7.30pm,
The Church Rooms, Painswick

Want to join us?

Contact beaconbeneficeoffice@gmail.com

Suggested £20 donation, which includes your Bible Course guidebook.



CHURCHES TOGETHER IN STROUD PRESENTS

ASSEMBLY BANGERS

PRAISE IN THE PARK



SUNDAY 24TH MAY
3PM START

STRATFORD PARK BANDSTAND



Painswick Summer Evening Art Walks

The much-loved Painswick Summer Evening Art Walks return on **28 May, 25 June and 30 July** from **5.30–7.30pm**. Explore the village while discovering work by talented local artists and makers, with studios, galleries, cafés and businesses opening their doors for the evening.

Visitors can enjoy live music, refreshments, street food and the chance to meet artists throughout the village.

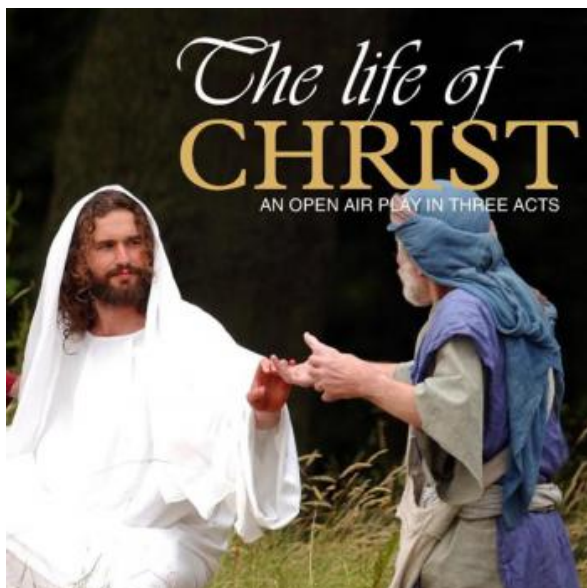
Sarah Middleton will showcase her work in May and lead free guided Art Walks from the Painswick Centre at 6.30pm in June and July.

Join us for relaxed summer evenings celebrating art, community and creativity in Painswick.



Wintershall: Life of Christ

Also back by popular demand - Churches Together Around Painswick is once again organising a trip to the Wintershall Estate in Surrey.



 **Date:** Thursday 18th June

 **Travel:** A comfortable coach

Tickets are £35 and travel £35 each. We will leave at 7am and return by 6.30pm and travel comfortably by coach. Mobility transport is available at the site but we will need to take our own picnic, folding chair and refreshments.

If you do want to come or want to know more, please contact Ela Pathak-Sen, Chair of Churches Together by email ela@commotionuk.org or Clare Irving clareirvingx@gmail.com or Sue Leighton-Boyce suelboyce@gmail.com **ASAP**.

You will need to pay a deposit of £35 so that we can secure the tickets. We don't want anyone to miss out

so if you do have difficulties paying please do get in touch and we will find a way to make this happen for you.

If you want to know more about this beautiful re-enactment, go to www.wintershall.org.uk

Last year's group said:

"Wintershall brought the Gospels alive, to think we have our own Oberammergau in this country, and we didn't know about it!"

"I loved the camaraderie as a group of Christians travelling together, sharing our experiences and worship."

"I have seen the Passion Play performed in Trafalgar Square – this is on a different scale, Christ walking in our English countryside – there is even a sea of Galilee."

"I was so taken with the school children, who immersed themselves in retelling the story of Jesus, what a wonderful way to bring the Gospel alive to the next generation!"

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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 Visitor) on 07854 262517 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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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

FROM THE ROCOCO GARDENS:

May brings something a little different at Rococo Garden, where a range of seasonal activities are planned.

Still on this month, from **23rd – 31st May**, **'Buzzly's Bee Busy Trail'** offers a family-friendly half-term activity. Children are invited to follow Buzzly the honey bee through winding paths and hidden corners, using their senses to explore nature.

Additionally, there is a special **'Bee Day' on 30 May**, featuring a live observation hive, beeswax candle rolling, short talks and honey tasting. These activities aim to give a closer understanding of bees and how they support our environment.

The garden itself provides plenty to enjoy at a relaxed pace. As the last surviving Rococo garden in England designed purely for pleasure, it features rolling lawns, ornamental follies and quiet corners to explore. Late May is a particularly colourful time, with aquilegia (columbine), iris and sweet william in bloom, alongside fresh growth in the Kitchen Garden.

The garden is open **Wednesday to Sunday (and daily during the half-term week), from 10am to 5pm.**



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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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Church Contacts

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

Beacon Intercessory Prayer Co-ordinator: 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 Team: 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** 10.00am – 5.00pm

**Edge** 8.00am – 5.00pm

**Painswick** 9.00am – 6.30pm

**Harescombe** always open

**Pitchcombe** 9.00am – 5.00pm

**Sheepscombe** 9.00am – 5.00pm

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Pentecost Prayer for our Benefice

Heavenly Father,
Pour out your Holy Spirit on our parishes,
that the Beacon Benefice would be known as a place of grace and hope.

May our churches indeed be a beacon for you and your Kingdom,
shining your light into the darkness.

May your living water flow from us to all areas of our community,
changing lives and bringing new life wherever it goes.

Help us to proclaim the good news of your Kingdom in practical, caring ways;
that the Gospel would flow out from here and touch peoples' every-day lives.

May they respond to your call and be transformed into passionate disciples of Jesus.
We ask this through your Son, our saviour Jesus Christ, **Amen.**

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## **Blessing**

May the road rise up to meet you.  
May the wind be always at your back.  
May the sun shine warm upon your face;  
the rains fall soft upon your fields and until we meet again,  
May God hold you in the palm of His hand.  
**Amen.**