NOTICES & NEWS

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Worship in Church
Preachers and readings for Sunday 1st November 2026

Joshua 3 v 7 – 17
Psalm 107 v 1 - 7, 33 – 37
1 Thessalonians 2 v 9 – 13
Matthew 23 v 1 - 12

rship in Church: 10.30am

(Sunday Fun sessions are on the 2nd & 4th Sunday each month at 10.30am)

1st Nov Rev Ian Brown
Anniversary "Sense of Worship"
8th Nov Sue Walmsley
Remembrance Sunday
15th Nov Rev John McNeill
Holy Communion
22nd Nov Local Arrangement

Flowers in Church this Sunday have been arrange for our Church Anniversary

Weekly Programme

Monday:

Badminton Club 9.30-11.30am
Carers Coffee Morning 10.30-11.30am (3rd Mon)
Friendship Club (2ndMon) 2.30pm
BB&GA Anchors/Juniors 5.30–8.00pm (termtime)
Welcome Cafe (termtime) 5.30–8.00pm
Monday Makers 7.30-9.30pm

Tuesday:

JellyTotz 10-11.30am
Parents & Toddlers (termtime)
Men's Social (2nd Tue) 10-12noon
Step"n"Style (termtime) 4-8.30pm

Wednesday:

Welcome Cafe 10–12noon
Welcome Garden 10-12noon
Tech Support (free) 10.30-12noon
(in Welcome 1st&3rd)

Thursday:

Welcome Cafe 10 – 12noon
Craft Group 10 - 12noon
BB&GA Company 7-10.00pm (termtime)

Friday:

Friday Lunch Club 2nd&4th Fri

Saturday:

Welcome Cafe 10-12noon
(1st & 3rd of month)

Foodbank – The collection crate is available in the church entrance.

Church & PFA Events 2026

November 14th **Jumble Sale (Church Funds)**
Noveember 28tth **PFA Christmas Fayre**

A special service of remembering

We are, once again, having a special service to remember the lives of those who have recently passed away or in years gone by. This will be at **3.00pm on Sunday 15th November**.

Len Bishop

We miss our friend Len. His funeral will be held at the Gloucester Crematorium at 1pm on Thursday 29th October.

Kay Jenkins



There will be a Thanksgiving Service for the life of Kay Jenkins on Friday, 6th November at 1.00pm. This will follow a short service at the Crematorium for family only.

Kay's favourite colours were red and green but people are invited to wear what they feel is comfortable.

Refreshments will be served after the service in the church hall.

Church Jumble Sale November 14th 2pm

Please bring your saleable items to the Hall either:

- between 6pm & 8pm on Friday (the day before) or
- between 9am and noon on the Saturday

HELP please. We also need helpers to sell the items. We are usually very short of helpers, so, even if you have not taken part previously, please come along to help.

Cleaning up after the sale is always a big task, so if you are able to help us after 3.30pm to clear away and sweep up, please come along.

CHRISTMAS SHOE BOX PRESENTS FOR THE UNDER PRIVILEGED CHILDREN OF GLOUCESTER AGED 0 – 14 years

We have, for some years, organised shoe box presents for the under privileged children in Gloucester. The Salvation Army very kindly distribute them, because they are able to identify children in need.

If you would like to help with this, please can your contributions be brought to Church before 15th November. The Boys Brigade and Girls Association will be packing the boxes on 19th November, so please send contributions in time for this. Or if you prefer to make a cash donation so that we can purchase suitable fillers, please do so a bit earlier.

See Dawn Pearman (614763, or dawn.pearman@googlemail.com) for more details, or see the notices for 18th October

Church Anniversary 1st November

We celebrate our anniversary with a service led by Rev Ian Brown and the "Sense of Worship" team (getting together again). It promises to be an uplifting time – don't miss it. And, after the service there will be a Bring & Share lunch.

Remembrance Sunday 8th November

Arrangements for this morning will be as previous years. The parade, led by our Brigades will set off from the Royal Oak at 10.40am for a service at the War Memorial in Green Lane. At the same time there will be a service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving in the church at 10.30am, led by Sue Walmsley. Finally, we all join in the church for a concluding act of worship.

Craft Group Christmas Sale 21st November



It won't be too late to look for Christmas gifts. Come to the Craft Group Christmas Sale on Saturday November 21st 10am-12 noon.

Refreshments will be available.



Thanks to you all

Thank you to all who helped with the Jigsaw Puzzle Sale on Oct 17th.

This was a great success and over £700 was raised for our church funds. We started off with over 300 puzzles and finished the day with about 50 ready for the next puzzle sale on Feb 6th 2027.

We need more jigsaws for the February sale please and we are appealing-if you have any unwanted puzzles, please leave them in the church library for me to store for the next sale. Your help is much appreciated.

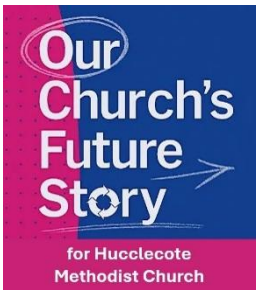
Sue and Andy Woodward.

News Update from Rev John

After two years of waiting, my essay on George MacDonald's sermons (chapter 12) and timeline of his life and work are being published in the Cambridge Companion series. My grateful thanks to Mrs Sally Stanfield for helping in the proof-reading. Copy the following in your web browser to view: *The Cambridge Companion to George MacDonald*.

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Thanks to everyone who participated in the Dreaming Time



Thank you

To everyone who participated in the 'Dreaming Time' during our workshops last Friday. Thanks to those who contributed their ideas and opinions during the discussions, and to all those who helped set up the workshops, prepared and served food and drinks, and those who helped clear up afterwards.

We know that some people weren't able to attend the sessions and we are planning one in November after a Sunday service – watch this space for details of that, and for a summary of our discussions to help us move on in our exploration.

Car Parking

We hope that, if you drive to church, you park considerately and legally. If you use the church car park, please park facing the road (in case we have to clear the grounds in emergency).

From Rev John

Dear Friends,

In 1864, Folliott S. Pierpoint published a hymn "The Sacrifice of Praise" for the celebration of the Lord's Supper or Eucharist (from the Greek eucharistia meaning "thanksgiving"). It has become the quintessential hymn of thanksgiving known best under the title "For the Beauty of the Earth".

As the story goes, the beauty of the English countryside captivated Pierpoint as he walked along the River Avon near his hometown of Bath. Its beauty was before him not as the work of his own hands but as pure gift wrapped by another's glory. Even his ability to take it in with sight and sound appeared to him as gift. And like any gift, these could only truly be received and enjoyed in one way and one way only—with thanksgiving. For what could he give in return for such gifts beyond his exerting? All he could do, and all that these gifts were meant thanksgiving, for it is made holy by the word to lead him to do, was to "raise" a "hymn of grateful praise" to him who fashioned and freely gave them, to the "Lord of all", from whom, through whom, and to whom are all things (Romans 11:36).

Pierpoint had opened before him God's theatre of nature in which all creatures, great and small, were as gift-signs to make him and us ponder the invisible things of God. The brimming beauty of the stage of nature led Pierpoint to reflect on so that he became gratefully aware of the untold gifts that came to him and all of us every day from the Lord of all. Whether things seen, like "the glories of the skies," or things unseen, like "the love which from our birth, over and around us lies", we are ever anew recipients of the goodness of God, "the overflowing source of all good".

Whether "hill and vale, and tree and flow'r" or "sun and moon and stars of light", or "the joy of ear and eye", or "the heart and mind's delight", or "the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child, friends on earth and friends above", all are the Lord's and are freely given. They are not the products of our hands but gifts of inestimable worth that can only truly be received and enjoyed with thanksgiving. Like Pierpoint, all we can do, and all that these gift-signs are meant to lead us to do, is to raise a hymn of praise to him who freely gave them, to the Lord of all.

In Christ, the gifts of God are restored to their proper use, no longer ends in themselves but as a means to thanksgiving. "For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with of God and prayer" (1 Timothy 4:4f.). Pierpoint leads us in this way of gratitude by beginning each stanza of his hymn with the preposition for. With this little, yet powerful word, each stanza begins with a subordinate clause that awaits the chorus for a sense of rest. The for awaits a to. The gifts await the Giver. "For the beauty of the earth . . . Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise" (emphasis added).

Pierpoint subordinates all the gift-signs of God as means to an even higher end. By them we are sped along the highways to the new Jerusalem that in Christ, the truly thankful one, we may “enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise!” (Psalm 100:4). Gratitude could not drive us elsewhere but there. For more than his gift signs of beauty, glory, joy, and love, the Lord of all has given us himself, the “best gift divine”. Whoever receives this saving grace owes and gives eternal thanks to God alone.

Every blessing, Rev John



Christmas Coffee Morning & Mini-Market

Saturday 7th. November
10.15 – 11.30

St.Philip & St. James Church
Larkhay Road.

Cakes, Marmalades, Chutneys, Jams,
Gift Ideas, Raffle,
Christmas Cake Raffle.

All proceeds to Christian Aid Christmas Appeal
"*Silent Night……Hungry Night*"

christian aid christian aid

Cash Only

CHURCHDOWN METHODIST CHURCH
WIDE VALLEY SINGERS CONCERT (WVS)
Friday 11th December at 7.00pm

Sounds of the Season

Tickets £10
Raffle
Half time refreshments included
Contact George Govan Email chosen.ggovan@gmail.com Phone 01452 714290