

Welcome to St Peter's today.

A special welcome to our visitors and to any worshipping with us for the first time.

A loop system is installed in the church; please turn your hearing aid to the T position. We also provide large print copies of the Common Worship Services.

Toilet facilities are available in the Cottages via the main glass doors at the rear.

SERVICES & EVENTS TODAY

08.00 Holy Communion

10.00 Parish Communion with Junior Church

Hymns: 24, 27, 39, 29

At Communion the Choir will sing 'River, Wash Over Me' by D. Brown

Voluntary: Choral Prelude 'Vom Himmel Hoch' by Johann Pachelbel

16.45 Bell ringing

18.00 Evening Prayer (no healing service this month)

In our prayers this week

Within the Worldwide Church we pray for the Diocese of Western North Carolina, USA, Bishop Porter Taylor.

Within the Porvoo Communion we pray for the Diocese of Kuopio, Finland, Bishop Jari Jolkkonen.

In the Diocese of Gloucester we pray for the Benefice of the Coln River Group of Parishes, Colin Randall (Parish Priest), Angela Finch, Sue Lord and Carol Norden (Readers).

In the Diocesan Partnership we pray for our five overseas partner Dioceses and especially today the Diocese of Western Tanganyika, Bishop Sadock.

We pray for all the women who serve

the local churches in senior lay positions. In our own Parish Calendar we pray for the Clergy and especially Gary and his family and for the residents of Treelands Close and Treelands Drive.

08.30 Morning Prayer every Weekday and Saturday.

17.00 Evening Prayer every Weekday and Saturday.

THIS WEEK

Monday 11th December

19.00 Bell ringing (please note the earlier start)

20.00 Rock Solid youth group – in the Cottages.

Tuesday

09.00 Electrical work in church

10.00 Tuesday Club mother and toddler group in the Cottages

19.30-21.00 Bell ringer tuition

Wednesday

Lucy, Martyr at Syracuse, 304

10.00 Clock repairs in church

10.30 Holy Communion

11.00 Holy Communion at Hampton House

18.30 Compline for Advent – see 'Notices'

Thursday

John of the Cross, Poet, Teacher of the Faith, 1591

13.00 Funeral of **Powell** at Cheltenham Crematorium

17.30 Wedding rehearsal in church

18.00 Brownies in the Cottages with Christingle in church at 18.45

Friday

09.30 Flower Guild in Church

14.30 Marriage of **Kendall** and

Cadbury

Choir practice: 19.00 Children 19.30 Adults

Sunday 17th December – the Third Sunday of Advent

08.00 Holy Communion

10.00 Parish Communion with Junior Church

15.30 Choir rehearsal

16.45 Bell ringing

18.00 Carol service here with the choirs of St Peter's and SCiWH. See 'Notices' below.

NOTICES

Posada – there are still several opportunities open, to experience this most moving act of hospitality, so please sign up on the sheet at the back of Church to have Mary and Joseph stay one night under your roof during Advent.

Compline during Advent

An opportunity for a short time of quiet prayer and reflection in the church as we journey through Advent.

On Wednesday 6th, 13th and 20th at 6.30pm.

Toy Service Thanks

Thank you to everyone who gave a gift at last Sunday's service, these have now been taken to the Salvation Army. Thanks also to Bishop Eloise, who helped to lead our service so brilliantly. Revd Gary.

Church Cleaning A big thank you to everyone who turned out to clean the church last Saturday. We got through in record time and the church looks a lot better. Many thanks. Margaret

Carol Service Choir

Please can anyone who would like to join us in the Choir for our Carol Service on Sunday 17th December at 6pm sign up on the sheet at the back of church.

We rehearse next Friday 15th at 7pm and Sunday 17th at 3.30pm.

Please call Simon with any questions.

Christmas Flower Donations

If you would like to make a donation towards the cost of the Christmas flowers please leave it in the box at the back of church. Alternatively give it to Veronica, Diana or a member of the Flower Guild. All contributions are very welcome, thank you.

Decorate a windowsill for Christmas

The Flower Guild members will be doing their usual flower arrangements at Christmas, but due to some members being unavailable we will probably be unable to decorate the windowsills quite as in previous years. **Do come and join us on Friday 22 December at 10am and have a go.**

No flower arranging skills are needed to fill a windowsill with greenery and fir cones, which will be provided. However, you may have your own ideas on how to make it look beautiful so why not adopt a windowsill and make it a family occasion.

If you are interested, please contact Diana either after the 8am service or by phone.

They've arrived! After over a year's preparation under the Community Sponsorship scheme, the family arrived safely from Syria via Jordan on Wednesday 29th November. Mohammed, his mother, wife, daughter and two sons are now settling in to their new home.

Grandmother is anxious to make use of the garden for plants, and the boys to play with their football. They are very grateful to everyone who has helped them. RKW.

CCP – HAMPER SCAMPER

CCP are now running their special Hamper Scamper collections of Christmas items for local people in need. There will be additional baskets for this appeal at the back of church from Sunday 3rd December, where you will also see a poster with suggested items to include. Please check 'use by' dates on the more perishable goods.

In parallel there continues to be a pressing need for the usual food items. The crate is in the usual place in the porch. Tinned pies,

tinned meat products as well as tinned vegetables are always welcome. The weight of food collected in November was a massive 65.3kgs Thank you very much.

Arts and Crafts Group at HMP Eastwood Park

The women's prison at Eastwood Park would be very grateful for any bits of ribbon, lace, sequins, buttons, small beads, suede, pieces of material etc. that they can use in the making of cards, bags, and other items. The group provides constructive activity for all prisoners, especially those who are in for the first time or those beginning a long sentence. There will be a box for these items in the church porch for the next week or so.
Peter L.

A BIG THANK YOU!

Thank you very much to all those generous people who donated items for the refugee house. The family have now arrived and are very pleased with their new home. We pray that they will adapt to their new life and find peace and happiness in Leckhampton.

Gifts with a difference

Are you looking for something different this Christmas or a gift for someone who has everything? If the answer is yes then take a look at the gift catalogue at the back of church, from A Rocha. 'A Rocha Gifts with a Difference', have all sorts of gifts from Bees and Trees in Kenya, forest restoration in Kenya, cooking stoves in Uganda, and guinea pig rearing in Peru. From Laura at P&J.

New for Christmas: 'In This Light' – Justin Welby

This little book, just £3.99, collects together exclusive reflections on the meaning of Christmas from well-known public figures, with a foreword and prayer from the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby. Published by Lambeth Palace and only available in selected shops (or online, via the Parish Office – please enquire if interested). It's a special new Christmas resource. Ideal

for those who believe and those who don't, for friends and relatives.

Proceeds go to six charities chosen by Lambeth Palace.

The Real Advent Calendar – availability

“Tesco is the only supermarket to stock the Real Advent Calendar. They are available in larger stores. If you can't see them, do ask as they may have them ready to put out.

Tesco have supported the Real Advent Calendar from day one so if you shop there put one in the trolley.

You can get the calendar in all quantities from the following online retailers:

Traidcraft have fast delivery. They sell them in singles and cases.

Eden offers various size packs.

TLM also have stock.”

More information is available at the Parish Office.

Prayer Walking

I am still on the lookout for someone to represent St. Peter's as part of this South Cheltenham Team 'prayer walking' initiative. We are hoping to undertake walks from each of the 5 churches between April and July 2018; the format being that we start/end at the church and stop at places of concern, beauty and community along the way, where we pray and celebrate God's blessing. Please let me know if you're interested, or would like more information. Revd Gary.

Electoral Roll

If you are baptised and 16 or over, live in the parish or are a regular church goer, then please would you consider joining our electoral roll (if not on it already).

The strength of the electoral roll reflects the strength of a church; it is a statement of belonging, service and commitment + gives you voting rights at open/annual PCC meetings. Forms are at the back of church, more info from Eric M or Revd Gary

THIS WEEK

ENDING TODAY - Emmanuel Festival of Decorated Christmas Trees

Sunday, 2pm-6pm

See the flyers in church.

Contact: Jackie Dunlop 580731 or

jac@dunlopost.co.uk

Open the Book

Your prayers please for the Open the Book team and their work at Leckhampton Primary School and the Richard Pate School on Wednesday morning.

Men's Group

A Christmas curry is planned on Wednesday 13th December, meeting at 7.30pm at the Norwood Arms and going onto Indus at 8pm. Please let Revd Gary know if you'd like to come along so we can finalise numbers.

NEXT WEEK AND LATER

Leckhampton Local History Society will be meeting on Wednesday 20th December in the Cottages at 7.30 p.m. John Putley will speak on 'Pilgrims and Pilgrimage in Gloucestershire' and there will be seasonal refreshments.

Carols at Cheltenham General

Hospital on Thursday 21st December at 6.45 p.m. Revd John Thompson of the Gloucestershire Hospitals Department of Spiritual Care invites all churches to join the choir for this event, which goes round the wards, with light refreshments afterwards. See the posters in church or call 0300 422 6200.

Christians in the World will meet again on Tuesday 9th January at 8 p.m. in the Cottages when Maggie will be speaking about the work of Mindsong, a charity which uses music and song to improve the quality of life of those suffering from dementia and similar ailments.

Suites for Syria Concert

Benjamin Dry will play Bach's Cello Suites in a fund-raising concert here at St Peter's church on Saturday 20th January 2018 at 7.30 p.m. Benjamin was originally booked to play in June this year but unfortunately broke his arm, so it will be nice to welcome him again now that he has fully recovered.

Free admission with a retiring collection.

Please see the posters in church.

GENERAL NOTICES

Gift Aid Envelopes are available at the ends of pews for visitors and impulsively generous regulars. Gift Aid helps us turn every £1 given into £1.25. Please remember to fill in your full name (first name and surname) and your address (particularly your postcode). Many thanks.

The Parish Magazine is available in Church. Great value. For free delivery to your home, contact Sue61.

Online Newsletter is at

www.stpeters-leckhampton.org.uk

Contributions should be given to the Parish Office by **10am on Thursday**. You can post them through the letterbox in the Glebe Cottages or call in (Monday - Friday 9am-1pm) E-mail: parishofficeleckhampton@btinternet.com or phone 513647