



The monthly magazine of the  
Church of England Benefice of  
Rodborough, Woodchester  
and Brimscombe

**Issue 16 – May 2024**

A call to pray .....

It was 2016 when Archbishops Justin Welby and John Sentamu launched “Thy Kingdom Come” and called on the Church of England to rediscover a time of prayer between Ascension Day and Pentecost. Just as the first disciples prayed for the Holy Spirit to be with them, transform them and equip them to witness to all Jesus had done, so we should do too. The Archbishops specifically called us to pray for 5 friends to know Jesus and this call to prayer has now gone around 170 nations and almost every Christian denomination. So, I would like to encourage you again to join in with this global prayer initiative and pray for 5.

And on the last weekend of May, the week after Pentecost, the Archbishop of Canterbury himself and his team are visiting our Diocese. There will be a special communion service at Gloucester Cathedral at 3pm on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> May, to which you are all invited. In our benefice we will be hosting one of his team, Gareth Regan, who will be leading a quiet day from 10am-3pm on the Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> May, at St Mary’s Woodchester. Having spoken to Gareth I’m really excited about this day – and he has given a brief introduction to himself below.

How much do you know about your friends? And how much do they know about you? In my life, I have been amazed by the number of friends who knew that I am Christian and wanted to know more, but yet I was not always aware that they wanted to know about my faith and were waiting for me to say something.

My name is Rev Gareth Regan and I am looking forward to joining you for a day to think about our journeys of faith and how we can share these stories with others. I am a Vicar in Newton Abbot, Devon and a member of the Archbishop's College of Evangelists. I will be sharing with you, bible stories, current research, and some practical ways we can grow in our confidence. This will be mixed with my story, after planting a church, seeing many people come to faith and experiencing the kingdom of God growing in the Town.

I look forward to meeting you, encouraging you and praying for you, that we might find our place with God in joining in with his mission wherever we are.

Blessings,

Gareth.

Rev Peter Francis

Rector Rodborough, Woodchester & Brimscombe

## Note from the editor

Hello again everyone

Well April has certainly lived up to its normal reputation shower wise which seemed this year to be accompanied by some quite chilly winds, but at least Spring seems to be finally in full flow with the promise of new life and hope all around us. With Easter being so early this year, I think many of us are looking forward to the two long bank holiday weekends in May; even if some of us then overdo it in the garden and return to work aching.

I am looking forward to hearing from you all about any planned summer events that I can promote through Common Ground and/or the weekly What's On, so please do send me the details.

For a number of reasons Hope and I haven't be able to attend church much lately so I'd like to say a huge thank you to the kind soul that did my deliveries of the April CG edition for me. I really appreciate your thought and time, thank you so much.

All the very best to you all,

Alyson

## **News of Peter Gee's exciting travels**

Peter will be away travelling from 8th to 28th May playing music concerts in the England, France, Luxembourg, Holland, Germany, Switzerland and Poland. He would be grateful for everyone's prayers for safe travels and he has also asked that for us to pray that the two of them who are Christians might be witnesses of God's love and kingdom.

I am sure we all wish all the very best and will indeed be praying for him.

We all look forward to hearing more about his travels when he returns.



## Looking back.....

### Eco-Church Update

April's Eco breakfast took place at Holy Trinity Brimscombe on a beautiful Saturday morning when spring had definitely sprung. The subject was gardening, and it was abundantly clear, from searching on the internet for sustainable gardening tips, that there are numerous questions to be answered and choices to be made.

How to encourage nature AND keep your garden looking attractive?

How to treat and mow your lawn?

How to deal with slugs and snails in an eco-friendly way?

What to do about the plastic containers that you acquire every time you buy plants?

...and on and on!

We began by discussing compost – how to make it (yes you can use grass clippings, but it need aeration and turning), what not to buy (peat). In Chris Short and Nick Ardagh-Walter we have two very “green” gardeners who had stories of what has worked or not worked for them. Conversation turned to water and using natural supplies collected in water butts, or “grey water” from the household. A couple of RHS “top tips” set us going down other conversational alleys –“Pull up a paving slab” and “Electrify your garden”!

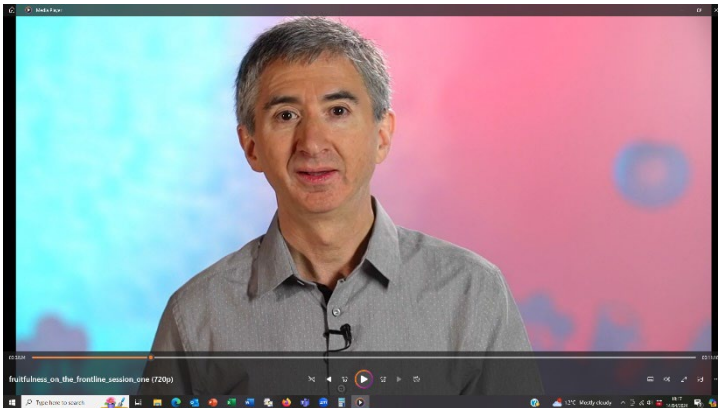
There are more topics to come. Do join us at St Mary's Woodchester for our next Eco Breakfast on Saturday May 11<sup>th</sup> (9.00 for 9.30am – finish by 10.30).

Andrew Pemberton

## Our Lent course: Fruitfulness on the Frontline

This year our Lent Course came from the London Institute of Contemporary Christianity and showed us how to be “fruitful” as Christians, in our daily lives, whether at work, at the school gate or in the shops – wherever we have contact with other people who don’t know us well. How do we demonstrate that we are Christians and what our faith means to us - and be “fruitful” in encouraging others to join us in faith? Few of us have the talents and confidence of a traditional “evangelist”.

The course took the form of short video talks which illustrated some straightforward examples of “fruitfulness” – followed by study of a relevant Bible passage and discussion of questions posed in the course’s written materials.



*Course video  
presenter Mark  
Briggs*

## The course was structured around “Six Ms”:

**Model godly character:** In tough times and easy ones, with difficult people and delightful people, how might you manifest the fruit of the Spirit – love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control? Which one is a struggle for you? Are you praying that you grow in the Christlikeness of your responses?

**Make good work:** This includes both what we do and how we do it. It means doing good work that serves other people, contributes to human flourishing, and stewards creation. It means doing your tasks consciously for the Lord, in the Spirit, to his glory, seeking his wisdom, his strength, and his touch. Your best with his transforming help.

**Minister grace and love:** There are many ways to do this, not only in practical care and kindness for those who need it, but through the way we respond in difficult and indeed ordinary situations. How do we engage with the check-out person, or the lonely shopper in the charity shop, or the new parent at the school gate, or do an appraisal with the other person’s long-term interests at heart, not just the company’s?

### **Mould culture:**

Culture is ‘the way we do things round here’. Although you may not be able to change the way your company or your gym or your parents’ association does things by next Monday, you may well be able to begin with a few people and a few small actions. What things bother you – and what are the values that underpin them? What could be done differently that would make it a better place for people to flourish? What would make it more like God’s will being done on earth as in heaven?

**Be a Mouthpiece for truth and justice:** There will be times when being a disciple means speaking up against things that are unfair, unhealthy, or untruthful, and speaking up for things that are true and just and good. It takes courage, wisdom, and prayer.

**Be a Messenger of the gospel:** You may not get an opportunity every day, or even every month, but ask God who he might want you to pray for. Ask someone else to pray for you, to offer wisdom and hold you accountable. Be ready 'to give a reason for the hope that is in you' (1 Peter 3:15). Don't be driven by false guilt. Rest in God, trust his timing, build trust and relationships, care for people, and share what Jesus has done in your life and what he offers to everyone. Celebrate the steps you see people making towards Jesus.

In our (augmented) Thursday study group we found all the sessions were encouraging and thought-provoking. The material is fully relevant to our lives. If you are interested in looking up the course, you can find the materials online here:

<https://licc.org.uk/ourresources/fruitfulness/>

Andrew Pemberton



**Looking ahead.....**

**NewWine**

**New Wine is back**

**in the South West in 2024!**

**Day tickets now available!**

Last year, a number of you tuned into online broadcasts from the seminars and worship from the New Wine summer festival from people like Peter Grieg from 24-7 prayer. This year the Festival is moving back to the South West, returning to its home - Shepton Mallet where it first took place 35 years ago, and is taking place on the 25-30th July 2024.

As ever there is amazing provision for children and youth, hundreds of seminars for adults as well as daily worship and teaching, opportunities for prayer ministry, and cafes to just chill out in and talk with friends.

There is also the opportunity to serve on different Teams to make the event happen, working with others from churches across the UK and beyond.

Day tickets are now available if you would like to come along and join us for a day, or more to find out more please speak to Peter Francis and if you are booking – do book with Holy Trinity Brimscombe.

You can find out more information at: <https://www.new-wine.org/events/newwine24/>

**Dates for your diaries** *(More info to follow in due course)*

**Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> June**

**Capriol Chamber Orchestra Concert**

at St Mary Woodchester

**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> July**

**Capella Singers Summer Concert**

7.30pm at Holy Trinity Church Minchinhampton

## FAMILY MATTERS

<b>WHAT</b>	<b>WHEN</b>	<b>WHERE</b>	<b>CONTACT</b>
<b>LITTLE STARS</b> - babies & toddlers	EVERY MONDAY, 9.30am (in term time)	St Mary Woodchester	Elaine Penney 07974 208714
<b>MESSY CHURCH</b> - youngsters up to Year 6 accompanied by an adult (free, activity filled session of crafts, music and stories with refreshment)	WEDNESDAY, monthly (in term time). 3.20pm – 4.45pm  May 15th  Theme of Pentecost	St Mary Woodchester	Liz Hale <a href="mailto:liz@johnhale.plus.com">liz@johnhale.plus.com</a>

## COMMUNITY

<b>WHAT</b>	<b>WHEN</b>	<b>WHERE</b>	<b>CONTACT</b>
<p><b>COFFEE POT</b> (coffee, cake and good company, includes Celtic Worship in the Snug from 1000 to 1025 am)</p>	<p>EVERY WEDNESDAY 10am- noon</p>	<p>The Old Endowed School, Rodborough</p>	<p>John Atkinson jka1649@gmail.com</p>
<p><b>COMMUNITY COFFEE MORNING</b> (a chance to meet up with friends and our wider community over coffee and cake whilst supporting this local enterprise)</p>	<p>TUESDAY, Monthly 11am</p> <p>TUES 28<sup>th</sup> May</p>	<p>The Long Table, Brimscombe</p>	<p>Jayne Hancock 07805 259246</p>
<p><b>LUNCH WITH FRIENDS</b> (monthly gathering of senior members of the community to enjoy good conversation and company around a hearty home cooked meal)</p>	<p>FRIDAY, monthly</p> <p>12.00 FRI 17th May</p>	<p>St Mary Woodchester</p>	<p>Christina Lewis 07968 159779</p>

## Our Benefice: Prayer and Study Groups

<p><b>Monday Morning Prayer</b> Each <b>Monday</b> at 9.00am (not Bank Holidays)</p>	Prayer on Zoom
<p><b>Monday Mums</b> Each <b>Monday</b> at 12.30pm (in term time, no meetings on Bank Holidays)</p>	Location varies, Contact: Gail Birch, on 0787 5028671
<p><b>Prayer Group</b> Each <b>Monday</b> at 7.30pm (not Bank Holidays)</p>	Holy Trinity, Brimscombe Contact: Helen Kerr on 07834 261278
<p><b>Benefice Online Bible Study</b> By Zoom, <b>Tuesdays</b> at 7.30pm <i>(Not happening in May, will resume 4<sup>th</sup> June)</i></p>	Contact: Contact Peter Gee peter@pendragonuk.net or 07796 180317
<p><b>Prayer Group</b> Each <b>Wednesday</b> from 7.30pm</p>	Location varies, Contact: Gail Birch, on 0787 5028671
<p><b>Soul Food Bible study and fellowship group meeting</b> <b>Alternate Thursdays</b> (9<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> May)</p>	Brimcombe 1.00-2.15pm Contact: Jenny Bernard on 07957 816313
<p><b>Bible Study Group</b> By Zoom, <b>Thursdays</b> at 7.30pm</p>	Contact: Andrew Pemberton on 07973 187923

## Worship for May

<b>Sunday 5th</b>	9.00am	Songs of Praise at St Mary Magdalene, Rodborough
	11.00am	Morning Worship Service with creche and activities for older children at St Mary Woodchester
	11.00am	Holy Communion Service at Holy Trinity Brimscombe
<b>Thursday 9th May Ascension Day</b>	7.30pm	Ascension Day reflection, quiet time and Holy Communion at St Mary Woodchester
<b>Sunday 12th</b>	9.00am	Holy Communion Service at St Mary Magdalene, Rodborough
	11.00am	Morning Worship Service with creche and activities for older children at St Mary Woodchester
	11.00am	Morning Worship Service Holy Trinity Brimscombe
<b>Sunday 19th Pentecost</b>	10.30am	Pentecost Service at Rodborough Tabernacle
	11.00am	All Age Holy Communion with creche at St Mary Woodchester
	11.00am	Pentecost Praise at Holy Trinity Brimscombe,
<b>Saturday 25th May</b>	10.00 am to 3.00pm	Quiet Day with the Archbishop's Evangelist at St Mary Woodchester
<b>Sunday 26th</b>	3.00 pm	Diocesan Holy Communion Service with Archbishop Justin Welby at Gloucester Cathedral

## Our Benefice – contact numbers

Churchwardens	Rodborough: John Atkinson Woodchester: Nick Ardagh-Walter Brimmscombe: Chris Short Richard Kerr	07792 714792 07974 403449 07484 284261 07552 223763 07974 207299
Rector	Rev Peter Francis (Rest days Tuesdays and Fridays) Email: Peterfrancis777@gmail.com	07740 677645
Readers	Richard Spencer Victoria Robson Peter Gee	01453 872686 07824 806160 07796 180317

## Common Ground monthly magazine and weekly What's On

<p>Updates, news, event details, changes, errors etc.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><i>Deadline of <u>Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May</u> for inclusion in June edition of Common Ground</i></b></p>	<p>Contact: Alyson Rogers on 0750 000 5140 aly2144@icloud.com</p>
<p>To be added to the distribution list for email or hard copy format</p>	<p>Contact: Helen Jackson cgground101@gmail.com</p>

## **ZOOM DETAILS for Prayer times and Services**

**Zoom app:** Meeting ID: **883 864 9918** Passcode: **blessed**

**Zoom Access by telephone:** Dial 0330 088 5830 local rate number

- When asked for a meeting-id enter **883 864 9918** on the keypad, followed by **#** -You will be asked for participant-id but just type another **#** You may also be asked for a security code – enter **866912**

<b>Church opening times</b>
<b>Brimscombe:</b> Open daily 8am-6pm
<b>Woodchester:</b> Open daily 10am-4pm
<b>Rodborough:</b> Open daily 10am-4pm

*All details are, to the best of our knowledge, correct at the time of publication but please don't hesitate to contact us with errors or additions.*

*Please see our weekly What's Ons for updates.*