

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

Roger Scoones has been a member of our clergy team since the spring, after retiring here from Stockport. This month he provides our Remembrance reflection:

It was a bright autumn morning, not a cloud in the sky. As I stood at the foot of the Thiepval Memorial in the Somme, in northern France, I listened intently as the names were read out; as numbers of the casualties on that exact day one hundred years ago were recalled; as I watched wreaths being carried up the steep flight of steps to be laid at the stone altar, already crowded with poppies; as I stood in the sunshine and heard the familiar bugle playing of the Last Post and Reveille sounding from loudspeakers across the now-peaceful countryside; and as I thought deep thoughts of what this very place meant in terms of human suffering and death in those terrible days of war. In the two long minutes of silence heavy tears ran down my cheeks. It was undoubtedly the most moving service of Remembrance that I have ever attended.

The Battle of the Somme raged for 141 days and was one of the defining events of the Great War. There were terrible losses on both sides. On that one day, 3 October 1916, over four hundred men lost their lives. Much worse, by the end of the very first day of the battle, 57,000 British & Commonwealth and 2,000 French soldiers had become casualties, and more than 19,000 had been killed – and of course many more German soldiers also died. Many of those killed would never be found or their remains identified – almost 77,000 of those killed in 1916 have no known grave. In the cemeteries of the Somme, immaculately laid out and assiduously cared for by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, many of the headstones simply carry the words “A Soldier of the Great War, Known unto God” – words inspired by Rudyard Kipling who lost his own son in the War.

From a distance the Thiepval Memorial appears to be simply a vast monumental brick and stone building. It is indeed very large, standing on a ridge and, at 45 meters high, visible for miles across the flat countryside, with the Union Jack and the Tricolour fluttering in the breeze from their flagpoles high above. However, the closer one comes to its base, gleaming white in the bright morning sun, the more one begins to realise that the enormous stone walls are in fact not plain stone, but are inscribed with names – 72,000 names; names of men who died in the Somme sector between 1915 and 1918, more than nine-tenths of them in the 1916 battle. As the War Graves Commission says of the Memorial, “It is both a memorial to the missing and a monument commemorating the alliance between the British Empire and France. Beside the memorial is a cemetery with equal numbers of Commonwealth and French graves, brought together from all over the

battlefield”. It is a truly beautiful, awesome and unforgettable sight. And a profound experience.

My visit to the Thiepval Memorial, on the last day of my recent holiday in France was prompted by John Partington having asked me to write a few words for this edition of the CHEQS magazine. I am grateful to him, because that visit to the scene of the Battle of the Somme has changed my outlook on life, and my understanding, or at the least my awareness of the cost of war; and it has changed what Remembrance Sunday will mean to me in future, as I’m sure it already does to many others.

I hope that someone who reads this may find their own way to the Thiepval Memorial. It has links with countless towns and country villages across our own land, as well as with many War Memorials, in our churchyards, town centres, and country roads. Indeed a son of Fairford, Private William Bennett, who lived in Coronation Street, was killed during the Battle of the Somme. He has no known grave but is one of that great multitude whose names are commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial. He was thirty years old.

Another year passes. And we say again on Remembrance Sunday in our towns and villages, in our churches and at our war memorials:

*“They shall not grow old as we who are left grow old; age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning ...
... We will remember them.”*

Roger Scoones



REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY SERVICES

On Sunday 13th there are three Remembrance Services in the CHEQS churches – at **Southrop** at 9.30 am, and then at **Hatherop** and **Eastleach** at 10.50 am.

There is also a service of Holy Communion at **Coln** at 6.00 pm.

Hatherop & Southrop schools mark Armistice Day (Friday 11th) with services in church at 10.45 am – all are welcome to join them.

FROM THE REGISTERS

Congratulations to **Charlotte Wright & Nathan Robbins**, married in Southrop church recently.

Our love & prayers are with the families & friends of **Isobel Eliot** and **David Vetch**, whose funerals we conducted recently.

LEARNING FROM MATTHEW

In 2016/7 most of the Gospel readings in our Sunday services will be taken from Matthew's Gospel.

Who was 'Matthew'? When did he write his gospel? Who was it written for? How accurate is it historically? How is it different from the other Gospels?

John Partington is leading a session (at a range of dates & venues) to look at these and other questions, so that we can get the most from the coming year's readings. Come and join us for one of these occasions:

Monday 14 November – 2.30 pm at Coln St Aldwyns Vicarage

Tuesday 15 November – 7.30 pm at Fairford Church Room

Wednesday 16 November – 10.30 am at Ampney Crucis Rectory

Sessions will last about an hour-and-a-half: let us know if you're coming – or just turn up!

BISHOP OF TEWKESBURY

Robert Springett is being ordained bishop by the Archbishop of Canterbury on Advent Sunday (30th) in Canterbury cathedral.

Everyone is invited to a service of celebration of his new ministry at Gloucester Cathedral on Sunday 11 December at 2.30 pm. There will be more details in next month's magazine.

QUENINGTON CHURCH FLOWER ROTA

We need two more volunteers to go on the rota. This involves placing flowers in the church just *once a year*. If you feel you can help, please call Barbara Cullum on 750563

HATHEROP CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

Our first (half-)term has been very busy. The new Reception children, Hunniee, Amelia, Henry, Alfie, Harley, Archie, Finn, Lucas, Phoebe, Eliza and Madeleine have settled in and have been busy getting used to school and making friends with the older children.

At the time of writing we have just celebrated Harvest on a lovely sunny afternoon in Hatherop church, with all the children taking part. A big thank-you to Judy Francis for teaching us old favourites, *Cauliflowers Fluffy* and *Michaelmas Daisies*, and to John Berry for his lovely harvest display. A thank-you also for all the tins of food donated for the Cirencester Food Bank. Music is a big part of Hatherop Primary School, and Lizzie Skinner has started a choir so that on Tuesday afternoons the school is filled with singing.

There have been lots of opportunities for the children to take part in sport this term. *Roaring Rugby* has featured on a Monday afternoon and the older children have also taken part in a Rugby day at Cirencester Rugby Club, where Soul Hicks and Molly Freebury were awarded special certificates for their roles in the day's sports. In a Cross-Country Running event all the teams did extremely well with our Year 4 boys coming third overall.

Our new School Council – Poppy, Molly, Freda, Jack, Olivia and Freddie – are busy planning our new Wildlife area, and the teachers are planning our Victorian Week in November to celebrate the school's 160th Anniversary.

Open Day on Thursday 10th, 9.00 - 11.00 am. We look forward to welcoming parents, prospective parents and the local community. Come and join us!

QUENINGTON VILLAGE HALL COFFEE MORNING

This month's coffee morning is on Saturday 12th, 10.30 am - 12 noon. Meet with friends and enjoy coffee and home-made cakes at our monthly coffee morning. Jayne Costley will be joining us with a range of Phoenix cards; please come and have a look. Raffle and book exchange. Anyone wishing to contribute cakes, please bring them along – costs will be reimbursed! Contact Janet Goddard – 01285 750323.

QUENINGTON VILLAGE HALL 100 CLUB

SEPTEMBER WINNERS

1st No 18 C Ford 2nd No 47 W Smith 3rd No 3 J Sewell

New members are always welcome. Numbers cost £12 for the year (pro rata if joining half way through the year) and all profits go towards the Village Hall funds. Contact David Bostock on 01285 750465 for more information.

MORNING PRAYER AT EASTLEACH

Eastleach church is one of few in Gloucestershire still to have Morning Prayer from the 1662 ‘Book of Common Prayer’ as its usual Sunday service – the “full works” including the *Te Deum*. A little baffling at times to newcomers (including some of our visiting clergy!), it has a timeless dignity which is much appreciated by the regular congregation and all who become familiar with it.

We’re very pleased that on Sunday 20th the choir of Hatherop Castle School are coming to lead the worship. The canticles will benefit from a strong lead, and their visit will give us the opportunity for a more colourful setting of the versicles & responses, and also for an anthem.

We’re very grateful to the school for arranging for this to happen – and indeed to the children and their parents who will be giving up part of their Sunday morning for the occasion.

BUY-NOTHING DAY

Friday 25 November is ‘Black Friday’ – the latest retail craze from across the Atlantic, where online retailers and others offer pre-Christmas discounts as the Advent shopping frenzy begins.

Now you can ‘do nothing’ about it: challenge yourself, your family and friends to switch off from shopping and tune into life. The rules are simple: for 24 hours you will detox from buying stuff – anyone can take part provided they spend a day without spending! Instead of shopping people around the world will take part in a twenty-four hour moratorium on consuming, either as a personal experiment or public statement.

Can you resist the urge to splurge? Or will Black Friday bully you into buying things you probably don’t need. Join the global network in over 60 countries who will be celebrating Buy Nothing Day; and if Black Friday does tempt you to go shopping – just remember instead to *do nothing*.

CHEQS GARDEN CLUB

The last talk for the Club on 11 October was a splendid one. Victoria Logue, the owner of Whitehall Farm Plants, used her extensive knowledge and wry humour to guide us on a tour by slides through twenty gardens in South Africa. (One garden didn't allow photographs; she had actually visited twenty-one!) The gardens were in Johannesburg and Cape Town, the climate being quite different in the two places.

The gardens varied enormously. Some could have been in England with roses and manicured lawns (that all had to be watered), others were native gardens with mostly South African plants, and others were biodynamic with planting by the phases of the moon, and with a holistic view of composting – whatever that is! All of them benefited from the bright African light and, unusually, all the plants seemed to flower at the same time, so you had borders of plant combinations you would not have here.

Many South African plants are grown in this country, but Victoria showed us that in their native habitat they grow bigger, flower for a longer time, have a stronger scent and are not subject to the vagaries of our frosty/wet/cold winters.

One plant Victoria recommended to try here was an alstroemeria called “Indian Summer”, which is hardy and good for cutting.

The enjoyment of the lecture was tinged by the knowledge that it will probably be our last one. Despite lots of desperate requests for people to come forward to take over from the present committee members, who have valiantly been in post for many years, there has been no response. The Club is left with no alternative but to close at Christmas. If you feel you can save us even at this late time, please get in touch via the contact-details at the back of this magazine.

The AGM on November 9th will be particularly important. There are some critical decisions to be made. Afterwards we can enjoy a Gardeners' Question Time with Jon Mason, whose thirty years of experience in the plant industry will, hopefully, provide some answers. Please hand in your questions on a piece of paper at the beginning of the AGM.

If any member can't get to the AGM but would like to go to the Christmas Feast, please contact Jenny Iles, as only members who are on the list will be catered for.

Beryl Whiteley

EASTLEACH VILLAGE PLAYGROUND

At the last annual safety inspection Eastleach village playground was classified as High Risk, meaning that immediate action is needed to make the area safe. The Village Hall committee, in consultation with the Parish Council, has therefore decided to dismantle the existing equipment and arrange for the installation of a new surface and some new equipment.

The Village Hall has been fund raising for some time and has received generous donations over the last two years, which means that we can begin to build a safer play area for the village very soon. The intention is to add to it in the future as more funds are raised.

We ask you to bear with us during the next few months as the dismantling and rebuilding takes place.

Any questions / offers of help please contact: Helen Wade, 01367 850315

ST MARY'S, FAIRFORD – Open daily, 10.00am - 5.00pm. Sunday: 8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP), 10.00 am Sung Eucharist (Family Service on last of the month), 6.00 pm Choral Evensong (BCP). 'Funday Sunday' 4.00 - 6.00 pm on second Sundays – crafts, games, worship & a cooked tea.

ST LAWRENCE, LECHLADE – Sunday: 8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP), 10.00 am Morning Worship with children's activities (HC 1st, 3rd, 5th; Informal 4th, All-Age 2nd); 6.00 am Evening Worship (Evensong 1st, 3rd, 4th; Holy Communion 2nd; Healing 5th). For weekday activities see www.stlawrencelechlade.org.uk

St Lawrence's Lechlade & St Mary's Fairford both celebrate Holy Communion on Thursdays: at 10.00 & 10.30 am respectively. CHEQS residents are warmly welcome!

ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY (ROMAN CATHOLIC), FAIRFORD (Horcott Road) – Saturday 6.00 pm Vigil Mass, Sunday 11.00 am Mass (Children's Liturgy of the Word offered whenever possible). For details of other activities, see www.stthomasparish.plus.com or contact Father Michael Robertson on 01285 712586 or michael.robertson@priest.cliftondiocese.com

FAIRFORD UNITED CHURCH (CONGREGATIONAL/METHODIST) – Sunday: 10.30 am Morning Worship & children's activities. Fairly-traded goods for sale. Our monthly Contact Group meeting is on Fridays 4 November and 2 December – 12.30 - 2.30 pm. Come and meet friends old and new over tea/coffee and light refreshments. *Please note – Saturday 3rd December – Call My Bluff and Puddings Evening, proceeds in aid of 'Love Fairford'.*

LECHLADE BAPTIST CHURCH – Sunday 10:30 am Morning Worship (with prayer from 9.45 am); 6:00 pm Evening Worship (2nd & 3rd Sundays) For weekday activities etc see www.lechladebaptistchurch.org.

SERVICES IN NOVEMBER

Sunday 6

9.30 am	Holy Communion	Southrop	<i>RS</i>
11.00 am	Holy Communion	Coln	<i>JP</i>
11.00 am	Morning Prayer	Eastleach	<i>PP</i>
6.00 pm	Evening Prayer	Quenington	<i>DB</i>

Sunday 13 *Remembrance Sunday*

9.30 am	Remembrance Service	Southrop	<i>JP</i>
10.50 am	Remembrance Service	Eastleach	<i>RS</i>
10.50 am	Remembrance Service	Hatherop	<i>JP</i>
6.00 pm	Holy Communion	Coln	<i>JP</i>

Sunday 20

8.30 am	Holy Communion	Hatherop	<i>JP</i>
9.30 am	Holy Communion	Southrop	<i>JP</i>
11.00 am	Holy Communion	Coln	<i>RS</i>
11.00 am	Morning Prayer	Eastleach	<i>JP</i>
6.00 pm	Evening Prayer	Quenington	<i>JP</i>

Sunday 27 *Advent Sunday*

9.30 am	Holy Communion	Quenington	<i>JP</i>
11.00 am	Patronal Communion	Eastleach	<i>JP</i>
6.00 pm	Advent Service	Southrop	<i>LH & RL</i>
6.00 pm	Advent Carols	Coln	<i>JP</i>

*On the first Sunday of December our services will be at the usual times:
8.30 am Holy Communion at Hatherop (JP); 9.30 am Holy Communion at
Southrop (RS); 11.00 am Holy Communion at Coln (JP); 11.00 am Morning Prayer
at Eastleach (JE); 6.00 pm Evening Prayer at Quenington (DB)*

SUNDAYS IN NOVEMBER

Sunday 13th is **Remembrance Sunday**. Details of our commemoration & worship that day, and also on Armistice Day, the preceding Friday, are given elsewhere in this magazine.

Since 1925 the following Sunday (20th) has been observed as the **Feast of Christ the King**. Established by Pope Pius XI in response to the rising tide of Fascism in Europe, it's an encouragement to Christians to remember that our primary allegiance is not to nation or party, or any human power-structure, but to God's Kingdom – as exemplified for us in Jesus, the 'Servant King'.

Sunday 27th is a double celebration. It's **Advent Sunday**, which we celebrate at 6.00 pm in Southrop and in Coln (where there's a service of Advent Carols led by Coln choir). It's also the nearest Sunday to the feast of **St Andrew** – the 'patron', or name-saint, of Eastleach church. We honour him with an 11.00 am service of Holy Communion there that day.

KEY TO WORSHIP LEADERS

DB – Daphne Barham; JE – John Exelby; JP – John Partington;
LH – Lynn Hayler; PP –Patti Price; RS – Roger Scoones

READINGS, PSALMS, HYMNS & COLOURS

- 6** (*Third before Advent*) Psalm 27. 1-9; Hymns 217, 102, 458 *red*
Job 19.23-27a, Luke 20.27-38
- 13** (*Second before Advent*) Psalm 98; Hymns *to be advised* *red*
Malachi 4.1-2a, Luke 21.5-19
- 20** (*Christ the King*) Psalm 46; Hymns 263, 177, 140 *red*
Colossians 1. 11-20, Luke 23. 33-43
- 27** (*Advent Sunday*) Psalm 122; Hymns 342, 31, 28 *purple*
Romans 13. 11-14, Matthew 24. 36-44

HATHEROP CASTLE SCHOOL – FIREWORKS DISPLAY

In accordance with the CHQ initiative, “Working together with Fireworks” we would like to inform all residents that Hatherop Castle School will be holding a firework display on Friday 4th. The bonfire will be lit at 6.15 pm, and the fireworks will be set off at 6.30 pm, lasting for approximately fifteen minutes. Thank you for your understanding: we apologize for any inconvenience that may be caused. If you’d like to come along, please contact the school for details.

CHORAL CONCERT

On Sunday 4 December at 7.30 pm, Fairford & District Choral Society will perform two contrasting choral works at St Mary’s Church, Fairford – Dvorak’s *Mass in D* and *Lux Aeterna* by Morten Lauridsen. This will be the choir’s second concert under conductor Marysia Gorska, after the very successful performance of *Messiah* in May. Tickets £12 (under 18’s £5) from Blenheim Antiques. (Or visit the website for full details: www.fairford.org/choralsociety).

COLN CINEMA

... invites you to a showing “*Florence Foster Jenkins*” at Vicarage Cottage Barn, on Friday 2 December at 7.30 pm (doors open 7.00 pm).

The true story of a New York heiress and socialite Florence Foster Jenkins (Meryl Streep) who obsessively pursued her dream of becoming a great singer. The voice she heard was beautiful but to everyone else it was hilariously awful. Her husband and manager St Clair Bayfield (Hugh Grant) was determined to protect his beloved from the truth, but when Florence decided to give a public concert at Carnegie Hall he knew he faced an impossible challenge. Directed by Stephen Frears (*The Queen*, *Philomena*), it celebrates the human spirit, the power of music and the passion of amateurs everywhere. Cert. PG 110 mins.

FRIENDS OF FAIRFORD HOSPITAL CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Saturday 19th, 10.00 am - 12.00 noon at Fairford Community Centre: our Christmas Bazaar where Christmas cards, raffle tickets, cake sales, book and bottle stalls, plants, refreshments, etc will be available. Raffle tickets can also be bought in advance at our Charity Shop in Lechlade with a first prize of £100 cash and many more prizes from local businesses.

JEEL AL AMAL

Patti Price writes:

“Jeel al Amal” may ‘ring a bell’ with a number of readers of this magazine.

In the late 'nineties, Canon Tony Ross took a group of people from the CHEQS parishes on a tour of the Holy Land. As part of the tour, the group visited Bethany, a village a few miles distant from Jerusalem. There they found the most amazing orphanage housing over a hundred homeless boys. Amazing because it was started by a very ordinary Christian couple who could not bear to see boys as young as three years old living on the streets in total poverty. Also amazing because it was, and still is, run on no secure income but by trust in a loving God who will provide!

On a recent visit to Jerusalem I remembered this orphanage and thought I would see if it was still in existence. CHEQS had supported the work for a number of years following that initial visit, the Lent lunches being a great fund raiser.

Finding the place was a bit of an adventure. Bethany is a Palestinian village, which means check-points, soldiers with guns, don't forget to take your passport ... and when you arrive how on earth do you find the Home? Bethany is now a large town and the only clue was that it was somewhere near Lazarus' tomb! Thank goodness for tourists who like to see these places: at least they are sign-posted ... though as it happened it wasn't very near the orphanage!

Ninety boys are now housed, educated, cared for in cheerful bright if crowded surroundings. The delightful House Father, clearly adored by the children, had himself been taken in as a three-year old; and now, married and himself the father of a little girl, had returned to run the Home. The original couple have now both died, and their daughter, herself a married woman with a family living in Jerusalem, is now in charge. “Very reluctantly” she told me. Not because she does not love the children and the Home, but because she said “I knew the financial side would be a huge burden and keep me awake at nights wondering how we were going to pay the bills”.

She then went on to tell me marvellous stories of how God had provided at the critical moment through other people. But she had also added that her decision to take on the Home was because she knew that if she did not then ninety boys would be back on the streets with absolutely nowhere to go, and she could not bear that.

I confess when I heard the size of the bills I was keen to help. I hope that, reading this, some of you might be also. If so, the good old Lent Lunches might be reinstated and perhaps at least some of the CHEQS churches could add *Jeel Al Amel* to their charitable giving. Let us know!

LOCAL ROADS - 2

We continue our series by Ralph Green of Stow on the Wold:

After the Romans left England the roads decayed into dirt tracks. Early in the eighteenth century the government passed an Act that enabled these tracks to be franchised to private companies who improved the surface and charged a toll to travellers. They were known as 'turnpike' roads, perhaps because the gate that barred the road carried upright pikes along the top to deter a horseman from jumping the barrier and avoid paying the toll. An employee of the company would be responsible for the maintenance of a certain length of road, making his summer camp at the roadside. His job was to pack stone and gravel into pot holes that might start to develop on his stretch. As winter approached he would return to his family in the local village. Over time, the roadman would create a small vegetable garden along the roadside and start to build a slight curve in the road to enable him to expand his area. In some cases, the amount of ground 'reclaimed' enabled the roadman to build more permanent accommodation and remain on the site throughout the year. In certain places in the Cotswolds it is still possible to see a solitary house and garden with the road making a slight curve round it. In our area the stone used to pack the road consisted of lumps of limestone. In the wet winter months the village roads became sticky white quagmires, which is why my mother-in-law always wore ankle length boots as a girl, as did everyone else. In the dry summer months houses on the road side were covered inside and out in a fine layer of white dust. In our village lived Mr Lake, a lovely man with a wealth of stories about Cotswold life. He had spent his working life with bicycles and motor cars, and to enter his workshop was a wonderful experience, a real step back in time. He told me about the steep road that runs down through the village of Little Rissington, and how it was always washed away in winter by rain and melting snow. In the early 1900s a decision to rebuild and seal it with bitumen was taken. Every Sunday afternoon the Bourton-on-the-Water villagers, dressed in their 'Sunday best' would walk out to look at this wondrous black road. He called it a Sunday Promenade. Mr. Lake's workshop is now the Perfumery, and much of the contents of his workshop can be seen in the Motor Museum .

From early times, professional drovers brought livestock from Wales and the Marches across the Cotswolds and on to London. Hundreds of cattle were spectacularly driven up the Cotswold escarpment in a journey that would take weeks. Livestock was driven along wide tracks which carried plenty of feed to support the cattle; and the use of these green lanes, as they were called, was regulated to prevent overgrazing. In times of drought and little feed, the drovers had to negotiate with land owners along the route. In order to get the best price for the livestock at their destination, the drovers had to drive the cattle at just the right

pace to arrive quickly, but not too quickly that they lost condition. Their destination was the open paddocks of Smithfield which incidentally, was the scene of the murder of Wat Tyler, leader of the Peasants' Revolt of 1381.

In certain places along the route the livestock was rested in large paddocks and even today the improved soil fertility still shows, especially from the air. The drovers stayed well away from the turnpike roads to avoid paying the toll, and several of these roads with their wide grass verges can be seen today to the east of Cirencester and around Fairford and Lechlade. As London's population expanded so the drovers became important figures who not only had to be hardy but trustworthy since they carried large sums of money back to the farmers. My brother, who keeps sheep on Black Mountains in South Wales and uses Welsh Corgi dogs, told me the drovers used Corgis to assist in driving the cattle. They were quick, nimble and being quite small, didn't eat too much. On the return journey when passing through Oxfordshire and approaching the Cotswolds, the dogs would take off and head for home. When small groups of unattended dogs were seen passing through the farms and villages, Cotswold people knew the drovers were only a day or so behind them. When the dogs arrived home the families expected their men folk to be home, with their pay, in about three or four days' time.

Salt was a very important commodity in the preservation of food, and London needed large amounts. Mules were used to carry it down from salt mines in Cheshire to the River Thames and then on to London by boat. From very early times Lechlade had been the destination of the mule trains, and to get there they climbed the Cotswold Escarpment near Winchcombe; the track they used is still known as Salter's Lane today. The narrow lane that crosses the Cotswolds is high and lonely even today, and passes through very few villages as it makes its way to the Thames. It is still known as the Salt Way. The qualities needed of these men were much the same as the drovers, hardy and trustworthy with an ability to live and work with just a few friends for long periods in harsh conditions. The demand for salt grew in proportion to London's expanding population, and so in the Middle Ages a purpose-built dock was constructed at Radcot, four miles downstream from Lechlade. The overgrown ditches that held the docks and the quaysides can still be seen close to the old bridge. Incidentally, this beautiful stone bridge is the oldest over the River Thames.

Every road, lane and track has a story to tell. As we drive, ride or walk along them we are literally travelling in the footsteps of our ancestors. Today we might do this for pleasure, but in times gone by crossing the Cotswold Hills, for a Roman legionary, a drover of cattle or a driver of mules loaded with salt, this was a very serious business indeed.

LOCAL TRADE DIRECTORY – to advertise in this magazine call 01285 750260

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<p>GARDEN SERVICES Keith Ford – ponds, pruning & hedge cutting, sheds re-felted, walls wired for climbers. The Garden & Plant Company –Design & Landscaping. info@gardenandplantco.com AJ Arborists – tree surgery & Arboricultural Consultancy – Alasdair Jeffrey www.ajarborists.co.uk Joff Elphick – Specialist Gardner. Topiary, potagers, cut flower gardens, herbaceous borders etc. www.joffelphick.co.uk</p>	<p>01285 750406 01285 750363 01285 850672 07879 565151</p>

LOCAL TRADE DIRECTORY (cont.) – to advertise here call 01285 750260

<p>GENERAL STORES Coln Stores & Post Office. Mon-Fri 7.00 am - 6.00 pm; Sat 8.00 am - 4.30 pm; Sunday 9.00 am - 4.00 pm. Southrop Community Shop & Post Office. Weds 8.30 am-11.30 am in Village Hall.</p>	<p>01285 750294</p>
<p>GROUNDWORKS SN Complete Groundworks – Drainage, Driveways, Fencing, Patios etc.</p>	<p>01367 850717 07738 937697</p>
<p>HOME DECORATING A. Tilling – Interior and Exterior D J Morley Fairford M Byfield – Interior and Exterior decorator <i>interiorworx@btinternet.com</i> 07876 558400</p>	<p>01285 810624 01285 713802 01367 850768</p>
<p>HOME HELP – YVONNE LEWIS Jobs in and around the home, pets to vet, help on internet, taking and collecting deliveries</p>	<p>07922 103532</p>
<p>LAND & ESTATE AGENTS Moore Allen & Innocent – Property Consultants & Managers, Land and Estate Agents, Auctioneers and Chartered Surveyors</p>	<p>01285 651831 01367 252541</p>
<p>MOLE CONTROL Traditional Molecatcher: no mole, no fee. Qualified and fully insured with references.</p>	<p>01285 770968 07766 132934</p>
<p>PERSONAL TRAINER Personal Training Available 7 Days A Week – Lose weight, tone up, get fitter, improve your health and fitness. <i>www.falconhealthandfitness.co.uk</i></p>	<p>01285 656986 07794 614962</p>
<p>PICTURE FRAMING ALS Picture Framing, Cirencester – established 1987</p>	<p>01285 659416</p>
<p>PLATES-A-PLENTY - Crockery, cutlery, glassware and linen hire</p>	<p>07974 785437</p>
<p>PUBLIC HOUSES AND RESTAURANTS The New Inn, Coln St. Aldwyns, Charlotte Close The Keepers Arms, Quenington, Jon, Verity and Michelle The Swan at Southrop, Briony Smith</p>	<p>01285 750651 01285 750349 01367 850205</p>
<p>SOLICITORS Wilmot & Co, 38 Castle Street, Cirencester</p>	<p>01285 650551</p>
<p>TV PROBLEMS?? Call Aardvark Aerials & Satellite. TV aerials, Satellite, new TV points. Fully insured. <i>www.aardvarkaerials.co.uk</i></p>	<p>01285 800041</p>
<p>TENNIS AND FOOTBALL COACH Matt Townsend - LTA Licensed coach, Schools, Clubs and private lessons for adults and children of all ages</p>	<p>07850 043056</p>
<p>WINDOWS Paradise Windows- UPVC Windows and doors, 10 yr guarantee Coln Valley Glazing – Steve Winney, Quenington. Replacement of misted or broken glass units (m) 0776 578 0772</p>	<p>01367 850188 01285 750553</p>
<p>YOGA / EXERCISE 1) Contact Anne Sutherland – <i>ann@yogaspring.co.uk</i> for classes at Oxleaze, Langford and Coln Rogers. For more info <i>www.yogaspring.co.uk</i> 2) EXERCISES THAT YOU NEED: we are all different - Energise, Stretch, Tone, Yoga or Qi Gong. Phone Heather</p>	<p>01608 643059 01285 750751</p>

CHEQS DIARY

for this month's Sunday services see centre pages

Nov 2	6.00 pm	Eastleach PCC meeting
Nov 4	6.15 pm	Hatherop Castle Firework Display
Nov 5	6.30 pm	Quenington Firework Display
Nov 8	6.30 pm	CHEQS Garden Club AGM – Southrop Village Hall
Nov 10	9.00 am	Hatherop C of E Primary School Open Day
Nov 11	10.45 am	Southrop School Remembrance Service
	10.45 am	Hatherop School Remembrance Service
Nov 12	10.30am	Quenington Village Hall Coffee Morning
Nov 14	2.30 pm	'Learning from Matthew' – Coln Vicarage
	6.00 pm	Southrop PCC meeting
Nov 15	7.30 pm	'Learning from Matthew' – Fairford Church Room
Nov 16	10.30 am	'Learning from Matthew' – Ampney Crucis Rectory
Nov 19	10.00 am	Christmas Bazaar – Fairford Community Centre
Nov 30	6.30 pm	Holy Communion in Eastleach church (St Andrew's Day)
Dec 2	7.30 pm	Coln Cinema – Florence Foster Jenkins
Dec 4	2.15 pm	Pensioners' Carols in Hatherop church
	7.30 pm	Fairford & District Choral Society – Choral Concert
Dec 6	7.00 pm	CHEQS Garden Club members only Christmas Feast – Southrop Village Hall
Dec 9	6.00 pm	School Carol Service in Hatherop church
Dec 16	1.00 pm	School Christingle Service in Southrop church
Dec 17	6.00 pm	Carols by Candlelight in Bouthrop church
Dec 24	4.00 pm	Crib Service in Quenington church
	5.30 pm	Crib Service in Eastleach church
	11.15 pm	Midnight Communion in Quenington church
Dec 31	6.00 pm	Prayers for 2017 in Coln church