

## FROM THE VICAR

I'm writing this before Liz & I leave for our summer break. Many of you kindly commented on my series of reflections in this magazine on our New Zealand church-going: in the next two weeks I'll be worshipping in the Alps and the Camargue, probably in Roman Catholic churches – which is always a treat.

One of the things that saddens me on my travels is if a church that I attend seems not to be reflecting its local community, but rather to be the preserve of a particular minority within it. That's something that we've long struggled with in CHEQS, especially in one or two of our villages; and the challenge of making our worship relevant to a greater number of our parishioners while not losing the good things that are rightly valued by our existing attenders is a complex one. It's often the case that the things that are most highly prized by experienced churchgoers (*eg* Holy Communion services, or seventeenth-century language) are the very things that are most puzzling to newcomers.

Part of the answer (already in place) is to hold a variety of services across our churches: so that a traditional quiet early service in one is followed by a more family-friendly service in another, and then later a 1662 Evensong in a third; or a traditional-style service in one church will be taking place at the same time as a more contemporary one in another. That of course requires people sometimes to travel to another village to find a service most to their liking – or alternatively to attend some services in their own village church which are more appealing to others than themselves. Neither of those requirements strikes me as too onerous for warm-hearted Christians!

A further possibility, for families with children, is for us to lay on children's activities (what used to be called 'Sunday School') alongside more adult worship in church – and that's what we're proposing to do in Coln church from this month: see inside for further details.

I hope you've had a really good summer, and are looking forward to the next stage of the year with enthusiasm. May God bless you in your endeavours this month and the rest of the year.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Partington". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish underneath the name.

## FROM THE REGISTERS

We welcome **Finley Dance-Shuker**, baptized into the church last month.

Congratulations to **Collette Horrell & Lee Jones** and **Chelsea Hardie & James Neal**, married in our churches recently.

Our love & prayers are with the families & friends of **Frank Howarth** of Southrop, whose funeral we conducted recently; and of **Mela Butler-Henderson** (late churchwarden of Quenington) who died last month.

## HANMER WEBB-PEPLOE

One of our Readers (*ie* Lay Preachers), Hanmer has decided to retire from his formal ministry after many decades of service in the CHEQS churches and further afield. We're very grateful indeed to him for his hard work and gentle encouragement during that time; and are pleased that he and Lucile remain committedly involved in less-public aspects of our churches' worship-life, especially at Coln, where they are on the team of welcomers and help with preparation of Holy Communion services.

We're also very pleased that Hanmer has taken responsibility, under Kate Hicks-Beach, for the church element of the Coln choir – choosing psalms & anthems, rehearsing the singers etc. This is a valued part of our worship-life and one we hope to extend over time, with more music sometimes in our Communion services, more instrumental music etc. If you'd like to be involved in this in any way, be sure to let us know!

(It's also possible to sing in the church choir only – a monthly commitment – rather than the full weekly village choir: do let Hanmer or the clergy know if this is something that you might be interested in doing.)

## PASTORAL ASSISTANTS

Following our article about this last month, please note that Christine & Jane will be commissioned in Gloucester cathedral at 3.00 pm on Sunday 25th; there will be a local commissioning of them in CHEQS next month – details to follow.

## CHILDREN IN CHURCH - 1

With a new school year starting this month, we're sending our children back to school with a **Blessing of Backpacks** in Coln church at the end of the 11.00 am service on Sunday 4th. There will be separate activities for them in the Vicarage during the central part of the service: so bring them as usual for the start of our worship – we shall then bid them farewell for a while after the first hymn.



It's not just children who stand in need of God's blessing – we all do. So let's keep them company by bringing our own briefcases, shopping baskets etc to be blessed alongside their school bags as we commit our daily lives to God at the start of a new season!

*We plan that this service will feature the first of a regular pattern of children's activities alongside our 11.00 am services in Coln – a new fortnightly **Junior Church**. We want our church to be welcoming to all ages, from the youngest to the oldest: so do bring, or encourage your young friends to come – they will be warmly welcome!*

## CHILDREN IN CHURCH - 2

For a number of years now we've been employing young adults as 'interns' to help with the youth & children's work in our South Cotswolds Team of churches. You may remember Amelia (who left at the end of last month), and before her Alice, Emily & Alex, who lived in the Memorial Cottages in Coln, courtesy of Micky St Aldwyn – to whom many thanks.

That intern programme has now finished and instead for the next few months we're employing a part-time consultant, **Sophie Witham**, who will advise us on developing our work with children and teenagers. Sophie has significant experience in church youth ministry elsewhere in the country, and her recent move to this area is a great blessing to us.

Sophie will be coming to all our CHEQS churches and schools in the next few weeks, and I shall be introducing and interviewing her at the Blessing of Backpacks service in Coln (see above) on Sunday 4th.



## **POVERTY AND VIOLENCE**

*A number of our church members are active supporters of Christian Aid. One of them has provide this recent article about a new direction in their work.*

Seventy years ago, Christian Aid was born out of war. In 1945, in the aftermath of the most catastrophic conflict in history, church leaders in Britain & Ireland reached out to people in continental Europe left hungry, destitute and homeless. Christian Aid, as it would soon become known, was forged.

Over the decades that followed, our work expanded across the globe: we delivered humanitarian aid to people in urgent need, we supported some of the world's poorest communities as they walked the long hard road out of poverty. We did not, however, work directly to tackle violence and build peace. But in 2012, in the growing realisation that we can only end poverty if we end violence, we made it one of our key objectives.

Seventy years on, war still blights the lives of millions of people – from South Sudan to Syria, from Somalia to Iraq. But violence is present in our world in many other forms: gang warfare, police brutality, domestic abuse, forced eviction from land or property, to name but a few. It pervades many countries and poor communities, even though they are not at war. It destroys the fabric of society and undermines the painstaking work of long-term development.

We have become increasingly convinced that to end poverty we need to end violence.

For what good is increased access to education if girls can be assaulted or raped on their way to school? How can a poor farmer make enough money to support his family if that money is repeatedly seized by armed men at checkpoints or extorted by criminal organisations? What use is working to increase women's status in society when no system of law enforcement exists to prevent a husband beating his wife with impunity?

Violence is both a cause, and a consequence, of poverty. It is this iniquitous circle that Christian Aid's work to tackle violence and build peace aims to break.

We seek to be impartial, but intervention makes us part of the context, and therefore potentially part of the conflict. Even with the best of intentions, aid can inadvertently exacerbate a conflict. And speaking out against one kind of violent society could see it replaced by something equally bad or worse. In Central America, for example, societies run by criminal gangs might on balance be less violent and more secure than if they were left to abusive government authorities. Before we decide to intervene, then, the first rule we need to obey is: do no harm.

To that end, it is essential we analyse and understand the local context. This is where our approach of working through partners really comes into its own. As part of the community, they are ideally placed to know what the risks are, what local people need, and how best to provide it. With their insight, and through our joint analysis, we can make informed choices on how to do no harm and have the maximum impact.

Tackling violence, building peace is now a priority for our programmes in ten of the thirty-nine countries in which we work, but we are still at the start of this journey. We will continue to build on our expertise in the coming year, and make sure that our peace-building is joined up with the rest of our work so that our efforts to end poverty and end violence reinforce each other.

*It might be good to support Christian Aid more consistently in our churches. If you'd like to help this happen, perhaps by encouraging activities in Christian Aid Week, or providing information at Harvest time, please let us know.*

## **MAGAZINE IMPROVEMENTS**

The CHEQS magazine is well-read and seemingly much appreciated around our five villages, and we're very grateful to Hatherop Castle school for their generous sponsorship whereby it can be delivered free to every home. It's a very useful medium for information-sharing about church and village events, and generally works well as such. (Our apologies to those whose contributions are truncated, omitted or otherwise maltreated – we do our best, and being all-too-human are grateful for thanks as well as complaints!)

We hope to improve this magazine further, perhaps by including a few more human-interest articles (*eg* interviewing some of our illustrious local residents) from time to time. And we also want to make sure that every village is properly represented each month. So we're looking to set up an Editorial Board, meeting perhaps three times a year, to assist the Editor and Vicar, with at least one representative from each village. The first meeting is planned for Monday 19th: let us know if you'd be interested in being involved, or can suggest a fellow-villager who might be glad of this opportunity.

*In addition to the magazine's content, its thorough distribution-network is a ready-made way of keeping in touch with each other in the villages – welcoming newcomers, being aware of housebound residents' needs etc. Without being too intrusive, or over-organized, there may be ways of improving connexions with our various villages' other welcoming routines and their (and the churches') pastoral care of neighbours. We shall be exploring this later in the autumn at a meeting of magazine distributors and those in similar roles in our community.*

## **CURATES (OR APPRENTICE VICARS)**

As well as the four full-time and various part-time clergy in the South Cotswold Team of Parishes (twenty-two churches, of which CHEQS are five), we're very pleased to have curates (newly-ordained clergy, learning the ropes) on our staff. There are three at the moment – Jonathan Clark at Lechlade, Helen Caine in Fairford and Lynn Hayler in some of our villages.

Over the years our own Team Vicar, John Partington has been very involved in curate-training, both before & after their ordinations; and we're very pleased that he's been invited to help with the final stages of Lynn Hayler's training as she prepares in the next couple of years to take on parish responsibilities of her own elsewhere.

Lynn is fairly fully committed in some of the other Team villages on Sundays, but don't be surprised in future to meet her at some of our CHEQS churches' midweek activities. In particular she hopes to help John run a Christian Beginners' course (*Alpha* or similar) in the next few months.

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**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](http://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](http://www.stthomasparish.plus.com) or contact Father Michael Robertson on 01285 712586 or [michael.robertson@priest.cliftodiocese.com](mailto:michael.robertson@priest.cliftodiocese.com)

**FAIRFORD UNITED CHURCH (CONGREGATIONAL/METHODIST)** – Sunday: 10.00 am Morning Worship & children's activities. Fairly-traded goods for sale. Our monthly Contact Group meeting is on Fridays 2 September and 7 October – 12.30 - 2.30 pm. Come and meet friends old and new over tea/coffee and light refreshments.

**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.uk](http://www.lechladebaptistchurch.org.uk)

## SERVICES IN SEPTEMBER

### Sunday 4

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>JP</i>
11.00 am	Morning Prayer	Eastleach	<i>MB</i>
6.00 pm	Evening Prayer	Quenington	<i>HC</i>

### Sunday 11

9.30 am	Holy Communion	Quenington	<i>JP</i>
11.00 am	Holy Communion	Eastleach	<i>JP</i>
6.00 pm	Evening Prayer	Southrop	<i>JB</i>
6.00 pm	Evening Prayer	Coln	<i>JK</i>

### Sunday 18

8.30 am	Holy Communion	Hatherop	<i>JP</i>
9.30 am	Holy Communion	Southrop	<i>JP &amp; RL</i>
11.00 am	Holy Communion	Coln	<i>JP &amp; MB</i>
11.00 am	Morning Prayer	Eastleach	<i>JE</i>
6.00 pm	Evening Prayer	Quenington	<i>DB</i>

### Sunday 25

9.30 am	Holy Communion *	Quenington	<i>JP &amp; PP</i>
11.00 am	Harvest Festival	Eastleach	<i>JE &amp; JP</i>
6.00 pm	Harvest Festival	Southrop	<i>JP &amp; JE</i>

*\* united service for the three-church parish*

*On the first Sunday of October 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 Harvest Festival at Coln (JP); 11.00 am Morning Prayer at  
Eastleach (RS); 6.00 pm Harvest Festival at Quenington (JP)*



## HARVEST SERVICES

Eastleach and Southrop celebrate Harvest Festival on Sunday 25th, with Coln, Hatherop & Quenington doing so the following week. Come and join us for special celebratory worship, with refreshments afterwards. Please also bring gifts of produce (fresh or processed) for us to share with those less fortunate than ourselves.

*Harvest Thanksgiving is a relatively modern addition to the church calendar. Its origins are usually traced to the adaptation in 1843 of Lammas Day by Rev RS Hawker, a parish priest in Cornwall. He chose the first Sunday in October as a Christian response to coincide with the traditional but largely secular 'harvest home' celebration, but there is some evidence to suggest that a thanksgiving for the harvest was already a relatively widespread church practice. An annual church celebration of the harvest certainly established itself rapidly with great popularity and was first recognized officially in the Church of England in 1862.*

## MIDWEEK SERVICES

We continue with Evening Prayer at 6.00 pm each Saturday in Coln church – a chance to prepare for the following day as we reflect on the Gospel reading together and pray for our Sunday services. And our monthly reflective service in Eastleach church is at 6.30 pm on Wednesday 28th – all welcome!

## KEY TO WORSHIP LEADERS

DB – Daphne Barham; HC – Helen Caine; JB – Jean Brown; JE – John Exelby; JK – Jane Kidd; JP – John Partington; MB – Margaret Bettis; PP – Patti Price; RL – Ron Lloyd

## READINGS, PSALMS, HYMNS & COLOURS

- 4** (*Trinity 15*) Psalm 1; Hymns 1 or 15, 237, 235 *green*  
Deuteronomy 30. 15-20; Luke 14. 25-33
- 11** (*Trinity 16*) Psalm 51. 1-11; Hymns 100, 126, 234 *green*  
1 Timothy 1. 12-17; Luke 15. 1-10
- 18** (*Trinity 17*) Psalm 113; Hymns 202, 240, 239 *green*  
Amos 8. 4-7; Luke 16. 1-13
- 25** (*Trinity 18 – Q*) Psalm 146; Hymns 175, 356, 422 *green*  
(*Harvest – E & S*) Psalm 100; Hymns 289, 290, 291  
1 Timothy 6. 6-19; Luke 16. 19-31









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## CHEQS DIARY

*for this month's Sunday services see centre pages*

Sep 1	2.00 pm	Children's tea-party at Vicarage
Sep 3	1.00 pm	Coln St Aldwyns Flower & Produce Show and Children's Fete
Sep 3	9.00 am	Southrop's Charity Trophy Clay Shoot
Sep 10	–	Ride & Stride Day (Historic Churches Trust)
Sep 13	2.00 pm	CHEQS Gardening Club – Bourton House Garden
Sep 25	3.00 pm	Commissioning of Pastoral Assistants in Gloucester cathedral
Sep 26	9.00 am	Southrop School Harvest Service
Sep 28	6.30 pm	Evening Prayer at Eastleach church
Oct 4	10.00 am	Hatherop School Harvest Service
Oct 11	7.30 pm	CHEQS Garden Club – talk at Southrop Village Hall
Oct 19	5.00 pm	Evening Prayer at Hatherop church
Oct 23	11.00 am	Confirmation Service at Bibury church
Oct 26	5.00 pm	Evening Prayer at Bouthrop church
Oct 30	1.00 am	<i>British Summer Time ends</i>
Nov 2	6.30 pm	Eastleach PCC meeting
Nov 8	6.30 pm	CHEQS Garden Club AGM – Southrop Village Hall
Nov 11	10.45 am	Southrop School Remembrance Service
Nov 14	6.30 pm	Southrop PCC meeting
Nov 30	6.30 pm	Holy Communion in Eastleach church (St Andrew's Day)
Dec 9	6.00 pm	Hatherop School carol service
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
Mar 26	1.00 am	<i>British Summer Time starts</i>
Apr 16	–	Easter Day