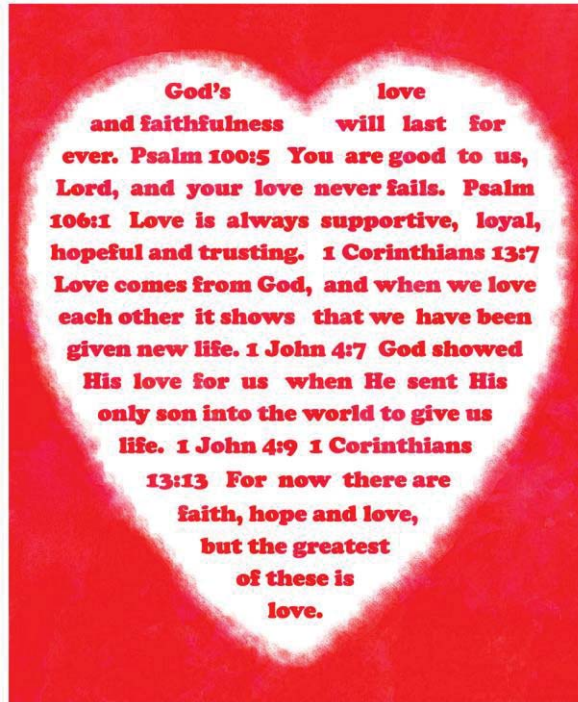


FOREST FIRE



February 2017



MAGAZINE

for the
Mid-Wyedean Churches

All Saints, Newland; All Saints, Staunton; Good Shepherd, Broadwell;
St John, Coleford; St Peter, Clearwell & St Saviour, Redbrook



Service times:

St Margaret Mary

C of E Eucharist	9:30 - 10:30	5th, 12th, 19th February
Service of the Word	11:00 - 12:00	26th February

St Peter's Clearwell

Eucharist	11:00 - 12:00	5th, 19th February
Service of the Word	11:00 - 12:00	12th, 26th February

The Good Shepherd

Service of the Word	11:00 - 12:00	5th, 12th, 19th February
Eucharist	11:00 - 12:00	26th February

All Saints, Staunton

Book of Common Prayer	9:30 - 10:30	26th February
Eucharist	9:30 - 10:30	12th February
Evening Prayer	16:00 - 17:00	5th, 19th February

St Saviour Church, Redbrook

All Age Worship	16:00 - 17:00	12th February
Eucharist	16:00 - 17:00	26th February

Times may vary, please refer to the pew sheet or the Mid-Wyedean website
'www.mid-wyedeanchurches.co.uk' for further details

DEAR FRIENDS,

As I write this is darkest January, with Christmas almost behind us and Easter apparently way in the future, it's perhaps not unreasonable to ponder upon the opportunities offered to us by our observance of the (Western) Christian calendar as we adjust our liturgies to suit the imperatives and priorities of the seasons. Of course, not all worship needs to be, or would benefit from being, in a set form and we all have an opportunity in our "Service of the Word" services to be more varied, original, sharing and even, on occasions, daring or experimental in what we do, say and sing. The big danger of this is that those of us who attend with any regularity might find ourselves taken out of our comfort zone (although that isn't necessarily a bad thing now and again, I would suggest) and also that we might come up with something on occasions which doesn't satisfy us and our needs on that day. On the other hand, the huge potential advantage is that the great majority which doesn't attend regularly, if at all, might find something in the "new" way of worshipping which surprises them and which they find attractive.

This begs the question of how they will ever find out that Church isn't exactly as they imagine it to be if they never come near the place to find out? One way, I firmly believe, is if and when we have Occasional Offices (Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals) we do our very best to be welcoming, lively and personal. That's not always easy, especially when the Service is either not to our taste (Baptisms, for example, for several of our number) or we're not really invited (most Weddings and Funerals). There is, though, a great opportunity for more of us to become involved in any of these services both by attending and by offering friendship and follow-up subsequently. Another way is for us to be actively looking for opportunities to invite friends to come and see what it's really like being a member of the Church - not just on a Sunday but throughout the week. We could wait until, "Back To Church Sunday" to do this but why wait? It's strange that whilst we'd think nothing of asking friends to accompany us to a sporting event or a club to which we belong we might never think of inviting them to the place where things are discussed and, yes, things happen which can have a profound influence upon our lives.

Whether someone walks into a Priest-led Eucharist, a liturgically planned Church service, an Occasional Office or an extemporary, lay led meeting for worship what they ought to find must always be the same - a warm welcome, an event of significance and a genuine desire to share with them the joys and benefits of being a member of this very special institution - the Body of Christ.

Love and Blessings to all,

Alan.

Give families in debt some space to breathe

The Children's Society's Debt Trap campaign aims to address the devastating impact that debt can have on children, which too often goes unseen.

Our latest research has found that children living in families struggling with debt are five times more likely to be unhappy than children in families without debt troubles, putting them at risk of developing mental health issues. With an estimated 2.4 million children in England and Wales living in families with problem debt, the potential for harm is staggeringly real.

We believe that children shouldn't have to pay the price of debt with their mental health. Every child deserves to flourish, and be all that God created them to be. The Children's Society is calling on the Government to create a 'breathing space' scheme for families, giving them time and space to repay their debts without the impossible burden of rising interest, or visits from intimidating debt collectors.

This would protect families and ensure that young people are not affected by unnecessary stress and anxiety. vulnerable young people. At a time when some families are being forced to cut back on essentials like food and heating, your support could make a real difference to children's lives.

Please join us at www.childrenssociety.org.uk/breathingspace and take action today.

COLEFORD CHURCHES

(the News Sheet of Coleford Churches)

COMING EVENTS

If you have any exciting events planned and would like them mentioned on these pages please contact me either by phone or e-mail. Information below.

February

- Wednesday 1 Great Oaks Hospice, Open Coffee Morning, 10.00-12 noon, coffee and chat, for more information 01594 811910.
- Wednesday 1 Walk for Health Initiative, start 10.15 - 10.30 am approx 1 hour, more details contact Chris Howell 836813. (NB: Chris will no longer be leading the walks.)
- Wednesday 1 NO Active Balance Class at Coalway Methodist Church (Weekly omitting the first Wed in the month).
- Wednesday 1 "Meet and Eat" (Staunton house group) at White Horse, Staunton. Open to all (12 noon. Cost: £5 soup & roll tea/coffee.)
- Thursday 2 Craft Club meet at Good Shepherd 1.30 - 3.30 pm.
- Thursday 2 House group meets at 21 Boxbush Road, 7.30 pm.
- Monday 6 Singing for the Brain, 1st & 3rd Monday of every month 11.00 am until 12.30 pm at Main Place, Coleford. Run by Alzheimer's Society for people with any form of Dementia and their carers.
- Tuesday 7 CAMEO meet at Good Shepherd from 2.30 pm.
- Wednesday 8 Walk for Health Initiative, 10.15 - 10.30 am start approx 1 hour, for more details contact Chris Howell 836813.
- Wednesday 8 Active Balance Class at Coalway Methodist Church (Weekly omitting the first in the month), 10.30 am - 12.00 noon.
- Wednesday 8 "Meet and Eat" (Staunton house group) at White Horse, Staunton. Open to all (12 noon. Cost: £5 soup & roll tea/coffee.)
- Thursday 9 "All Together Now" - Home Communion 2nd Thursday each month at 2.30 pm, Community Room, Tufthorn Close. All welcome.
- Thursday 9 Craft Club meet at Good Shepherd 1.30 - 3.30 pm.
- Thursday 9 House group meets at 21 Boxbush Road, 7.30 pm.
- Monday 13 Coleford Baptist Church, Coffee Break, 10.30-12 noon, need a lift then contact Maureen Etherington on 836303. (Meet on 2nd Monday of month.) Free tea/coffee and biscuits & warm welcome.
- Wednesday 15 Walk for Health Initiative, 10.15 - 10.30 am start approx 1 hour, for more details contact Chris Howell 836813.
- Wednesday 15 Active Balance Class at Coalway Methodist Church (Weekly omitting the first in the month), 10.30 am - 12.00 noon.
- Wednesday 15 "Meet and Eat" (Staunton house group) at White Horse, Staunton. Open to all (12 noon. Cost: £5 soup & roll tea/coffee.)
- Thursday 16 Craft Club meet at Good Shepherd 1.30 - 3.30 pm.
- Thursday 16 "Hot Potato Night" at White Horse, Staunton, 7.30 pm (3rd Thurs), food and discussion group, all welcome.
- Saturday 18 Christchurch, 10.00 am - 12 noon, coffee morning, delicious cakes & biscuits, Fairtrade tea & coffee. Everyone welcome.
- Tuesday 21 CAMEO meet at Good Shepherd from 2.30 pm.
- Wednesday 22 Walk for Health Initiative, 10.15 - 10.30 am start approx 1 hour, for more details contact Chris Howell 836813.
- Wednesday 22 Active Balance Class at Coalway Methodist Church (Weekly omitting the first in the month), 10.30 am - 12.00 noon.
- Wednesday 22 "Meet and Eat" (Staunton house group) at White Horse, Staunton. Open to all (12 noon. Cost: £5 soup & roll tea/coffee.)
- Thursday 23 Craft Club meet at Good Shepherd 1.30 - 3.30 pm.
- Thursday 23 House group meets at 21 Boxbush Road, 7.30 pm.
- Saturday 25 Coalway Methodist Church, 10.30 am, monthly charity coffee morning, warm welcome to all.
- Tuesday 28 St Margaret Mary Hall, 7.00 pm, "Pancakes and Beetles", tickets £1 (contributions towards refreshments on the evening).

March

- Wednesday 1 Great Oaks Hospice, Open Coffee Morning, 10.00-12 noon, coffee and chat, for more information 01594 811910.
- Wednesday 1 Walk for Health Initiative, start 10.15 - 10.30 am approx 1 hour, more details contact Chris Howell 836813.
- Wednesday 1 NO Active Balance Class at Coalway Methodist Church (Weekly omitting the first Wed in the month).
- Wednesday 1 "Meet and Eat" (Staunton house group) at White Horse, Staunton. Open to all (12 noon. Cost: £5 soup & roll tea/coffee.)
- Thursday 2 Craft Club meet at Good Shepherd 1.30 - 3.30 pm.
- Thursday 2 House group meets at 21 Boxbush Road, 7.30 pm.
- Friday 3 Women's World Day of Prayer 2017 Service, 2.00 pm at Mount of Olives Church, Gloucester Road, Coleford, service prepared by the women of the Philippine Islands, everyone welcome certainly not just for women,
- Tuesday 7 CAMEO meet at Good Shepherd from 2.30 pm.
- Wednesday 8 Active Balance Class at Coalway Methodist Church (Weekly omitting the first in the month), 10.30 am - 12.00 noon.
- Friday 10 Women's World Day of Prayer committee meeting, 2.00 pm at the home of Barbara Swinyard.

10 TIL 12 Cafe

Open on Tuesday and Friday
Drinks and a selection of homemade
cakes are available.

Home Cooked Food
served from 11:30 am to 1.30 pm
The Salvation Army, 43 North Rd,
Broadwell, GL16 7BX
salvationarmy-fod.org.uk

St Margaret Mary's Church Hall - High Nash -
Busy Bees Parent/Carer Toddler Group
Sessions held every Wednesday at 9.30 - 11.00 am,
activities for ages 0-5 years, £1 donation, all
welcome.

Family History Help Desk at Coleford Library
The help desk is no longer going to be at Coleford
Library on the First Friday of the month, if
anyone needs help please contact Chris Howell on
836813.

Coleford Baptist Church

Tiggys Parent And Toddlers Group

Meet Friday mornings from 10.00 am to 12.00 pm during
term time. Only £1 per family. For further info contact
Donna Saunders on 01594 832278 -
colefordbaptists.org.

It is a chance for mums, dads, grandparents or carers
to meet in the large hall, play and craft activities and
offer drinks for the adults, fruit and milk for the
children.

"MUSTARD TREE" AT ST JOHN'S C OF E
ACADEMY - Bowens Hill Road, Coleford, the group
meet for family fun faith and food. It is organised by
members of Mid Wyedean Churches. They meet once a
month on the school premises from 4.30 to 6.30 pm. It
is open to all families and it is not necessary to belong
to any church.

Little Angels - Parent and Toddler Group Mount of Olives Church.

Tuesdays 10.30 am - 12.30 pm, in term time.

**THE NEXT DEADLINE DATE FOR MAGAZINE ARTICLES
WILL BE ON THE 20th FEBRUARY**

**Apologies to all our readers that due to unforeseen circumstances we were unable to
publish the January edition of Forest Fire.**

TO ALL READERS/CHURCHES - PLEASE PASS ON ANY DATES OF SPECIAL SERVICES OR
EVENTS THAT YOU WANT PUBLISHED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO ROBERT RIVERS,
HIS E.MAIL ADDRESS IS DETAILED BELOW.

This news sheet is produced by Robert Rivers - Tel No 836593 - rivers_robert@hotmail.com
Produced by St John's Church, Coleford, on behalf of the Coleford Covenanting Churches.
Printed by kind permission of SPP Pumps Ltd.

COLEFORD TOWN COUNCIL - MANY THANKS

Many thanks to The Town Council and to everyone who has helped with all the events that have been held in Coleford through 2016, especially the French Market, "Cycle Ride" through the town, the Remembrance commemorations all the wonderful poppies around the town, and the Christmas lights - all the hard work put in by the volunteers who spend weeks putting the lights up and then having to spend hours taking them down, well done.

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER (INTERNATIONAL AND INTERDENOMINATIONAL)



Press Release



Am I Being Unfair to You?

On Friday 3rd March over 5,000 services will be held in the British Isles on the theme of 'Am I Being Unfair to You?' The Christian women of the Philippines wrote the service and it has been translated into 1,000 different languages and dialects, to be used, throughout the whole world, on Friday 3rd March, starting at sunrise over the island of Samoa and continuing until sunset off the coast of American Samoa.

In 2013, Typhoon Haiyan - named locally as 'Yolanda' - struck the Philippine islands in the western Pacific Ocean. This is mentioned in the service but you will also hear the stories of a girl, a mother and an older woman, recounting their situations and their hopes and fears. The service focusses on the Bible story of the workers in the vineyard: Matthew 20 v 1-16. There is a reflection on the artwork designed by Rowena 'Apol' Laxamana-Sta.Rosa. It is very thought provoking and illustrates contrasting scenes.

Why not find out more about the theme, the Philippines and the service? The Day of Prayer is not just for women. Everyone is welcome to attend the service. To find out further information, resources and services near to you, please visit the WWDP website www.wwdp.org.uk

MITCHELDEAN YOUNG POETS' COMPETITION 2017



This year Mitcheldean Young Poets' Competition, working in partnership with Dean Forest Voice Junior Forest Bard and aiming to attract entries from all over the Forest and the surrounding region, has found a new collaborator in Dean Heritage Centre at Soudley.

They will be offering a series of poetry workshops in which after a morning of forest-related activities the young poets will be encouraged to shape their impressions and ideas into poems. These will then be entered into the two competitions. For further information please contact joanne@deanheritagecentre.com - phone 01594 822170

Details for this year's Young Poets' Competition are as follows: poems may be on any topic (though only those of 'Forest' themes will be passed on to the 'Junior Forest Bard'). The preferred maximum length is up to 20 lines; closing date for applications 31st May 2017 with the winners to be announced at the end of June. There will be four age groups: 5-8; 9-11; 12-16 & 17-18 with prizes of £20, £10 & £5 for the first, second and third in each group. Prizewinners will be invited to read their poems and receive their prizes at the poetry recital to be held at Mitcheldean Library on Saturday 15th July as part of the Mitcheldean Fete & Folk Festival'. Entry forms can be obtained from the library and selected other local libraries or from the library website (see address below)

For further details contact John Livesey: 07974201434; or e-mail: website@gl17hub.org.

Bookings

If you would like to find out about or arrange a wedding or a Christening (they are free) in one of the churches, then you can contact either Revd Sarah Bick on 01594 835476 or Revd Alan Wearmouth on 01594 832660

Baptisms

04/12/2016	Amelia Grace PRITCHARD
10/12/2016	Marti WEAVER
11/12/2016	William Robert WHIFFIN
11/12/2016	Lillee Renee WOOD
18/12/2016	Quinn Josph HOLLAND.
08/01/2017	Vicky Anne WILSON
08/01/2017	Danielle Rose WILSON
08/01/2017	Miles Lammiman MASON.



We pray for those baptised and their parents that they might come to know the love of Christ

Funerals

05/12/2016	Peter George HELDER
12/12/2016	Martin John HORNER
12/12/2016	Doreen Joyce KIRBY
15/12/2016	Lisa HEMMS
16/12/2016	Margaret Ann MERRY
19/12/2016	Rosemary Dorothy Rose POWELL.
06/01/2017	Ada Mary (Mary) BEDDIS
10/01/2017	Mary MILES
11/01/2017	Beryl RAYMOND
13/01/2017	Eleanor Jane GRACE
16/01/2017	Leonard Arthur John (John) PICKETT
30/01/2017	Violet Lucy (Vi) MERRY.



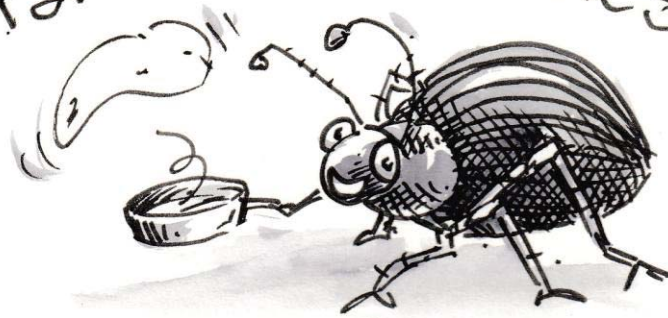
We pray that they may rest in the love of Christ and those who mourn may find comfort in the love of Christ.

xx

Christian Aid Meeting on Thursday 26th January, 2017 - Proposed events to included in your diaries:-

- Souper Soup at Coalway Methodist Church on Tuesday 14th March - 11.00 am to 2.00 pm.
- Christian Aid Week - 14th to 20th May 2017 with Plant Sale at Coalway Methodist Church on 20th May, 10.00 am to 12.00 noon.
- Pudding Evening at Good Shepherd, 22nd June, from 6.30, come when you like and go when you like. (Cheese will be available for those who don't have a sweet tooth.)

Pancakes & Beetles.



Shrove Tuesday Pancakes &
Beetle Drive

Tuesday 28th February 7p.m.

St Margaret Mary's Hall

Tickets £1

* Contributions towards refreshments *

* on the evening *

How will you express love this Valentine's Day?

Valentines' Day reminds us of the importance of expressing our love to those close to us. But how can we go beyond simply flowers and a card? Jesus says: 'A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another' (John 13:34). How can we express love in our everyday relationships like Jesus i.e. spouse, children, neighbours or work colleagues?

Listening

We need to listen to others, just as Jesus did. He asked questions of people and waited for them to process their answer. According to James, 'everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry' (James 1:19). How well do we listen to others? When with somebody, do we find ourselves already thinking of what we want to say before they've finished speaking? Listening takes time; you can't rush it!

Touching

Jesus reached out to touch the untouchables in his world, including lepers, the sick and children. This was completely out of character for rabbis of his day. One survey has suggested that we all need at least 8-10 meaningful touches a day to maintain emotional health! A warm handshake, touch on the arm or hug can be of real value. Of course, it should be appropriate touch - helpful for the other person, not just for ourselves.

Speaking

Jesus' conversation was always full of grace and truth (John 1:14). Do we speak words of grace, by offering comfort, giving encouragement or expressing care and concern? However, we should also be ready to speak words of truth, in asking for forgiveness, seeking reconciliation or addressing conflict. As Paul urges us, don't avoid: 'speaking the truth in love'.

Where is the challenge for us in expressing love this Valentine's Day?

A Priceless Find - by accident!

70 years ago this month a couple of shepherds in the hills above Qumran near the Dead Sea idly threw a stone into what they thought was an empty cave. When they heard the sound of smashing pottery they searched inside, and found the most important biblical discovery of the century.

Their stone had led them to what became known as the Dead Sea Scrolls, manuscripts of the entire Hebrew Bible except for the book of Esther, stored in clay vessels. The scrolls were the work of a religious community called the Essenes, who lived near that site before and during the life of Jesus.

As scholars slowly unraveled them - and that task took decades - they discovered that they were handling manuscripts of the Bible which were hundreds of years older than any we had previously possessed. Most of the biblical manuscripts on which our translations had previously been based were copies of copies, carefully crafted in monasteries over the centuries by people dedicated to preserving the sacred text.

But inevitably, in the process, there were occasional slips in the copying, and at times it's obvious that those who were doing it didn't understand the words they were copying.

So, in February 1947, the world had access to a much older and therefore more accurate record of the Jewish Scriptures - the Bible of Jesus and the first Christians. The most remarkable thing is actually how few 'mistakes' there were, seeing the centuries of copying - and not one that seriously affects our fundamental understanding of the Bible.

Those two shepherds 70 years ago ensured that we today have a Bible text which is as close to the original as one could ever hope to get.

XX

STAUNTON AND DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

Our first Speaker of 2017 was Mark Vaughan and his subject "Pests and Diseases".

His talk was interesting, very informative and proved relevant as we are planning our planting for the season.

We learnt how to spot and deal with Aphids (Greenfly, Blackfly, and Woolly Aphids), Scale insects, Red Spider Mites, Vine Weevils, White Fly, Thrips (Thunderbugs), Chafer Grubs and Leather Jackets, Lily Beetles, Mildew, Peach Leaf Curl, Black Spot and Honey Fungus and Mark answered our questions from his experience.

He also provided copies of his comprehensive reference document which will be most useful. A talk to be recommended as mentioned by Bill Gibb in his vote of thanks.

In February we have a speaker on "Getting the best from your roses". We welcome visitors and if you would like further information give Alison a call on 01594 837840.



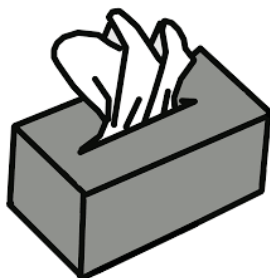
COUGHS & SNEEZES

February seems to be the coldest time of the year – and most of us get a cold, complete with runny nose and sore throat.

Well, 3rd February is the right day to have a sore throat because it is St Blaise's Day. Legend says that St Blaise was on his way to be martyred when he saw a young child choking with a fishbone stuck in his throat. The saint touched the child and the bone was dislodged. This led to a custom of Blessing the Throats on St Blaise's Day which continues today in one London church.

Another way to celebrate the day was with big bonfires (before the Bonfire Night we keep in November was thought of) and that is probably why we say that bonfires blaze.

So you can sit in front of a blazing fire, sniffing into a tissue and think about the patron saint of sore throats.

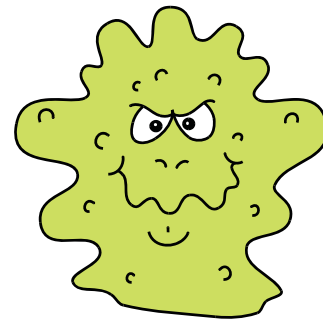


A COLD PUZZLE

All the words hidden in this word-search are to do with winter sniffles. Can you find them all?

S	N	I	F	F	L	E	S	T	E
L	H	W	L	E	F	F	T	I	L
I	A	I	U	L	V	K	A	S	A
N	N	C	V	E	I	E	O	S	Z
C	K	O	O	E	R	P	R	U	N
T	I	E	O	L	R	U	H	E	E
U	E	S	L	D	D	S	T	S	U
S	W	O	T	E	L	B	A	T	F
W	I	N	T	E	R	H	G	I	N
A	E	N	I	C	I	D	E	M	I

cold fever flu hankie influenza
linctus medicine nose pill
shivers sniffles tablet throat
tissues winter



What happen if your nose runs and your feet smell?

You're built upside down!

What sort of transport gives people colds?

A-choo-choo-trains.

Mid-Wyedean Churches

All Saints, Newland; All Saints, Staunton;
Good Shepherd, Broadwell; St John, Coleford;
St Peter, Clearwell & St Saviour, Redbrook

Benefice Website - www.mid-wyedeanchurches.co.uk

Ministry Team:

Revd. Sarah Bick, The Vicarage, 40 Boxbush Road, Coleford, GL16 8DN (Dean 835476)
(sarah@thebickerage.org.uk)

The Revd. Alan Wearmouth, "Windhover", Broadwell Bridge, Broadwell. (Dean 832660)
(alanw22uk@yahoo.co.uk)

Licensed Readers:

Mrs. Anne Harley

Arrangements for Baptisms, weddings etc. should be made in the first instance to Rev Sarah Bick.

Parish Wardens

St John's, Coleford

Penny Rayner 837386
mrspennyrayner@btinternet.com

Good Shepherd, Broadwell

Sarah Codd 07759693213

Assistant Wardens

All Saints, Staunton

Sue Simmons 833432
susan.simmons.staunton@googlemail.com

All Saints, Newland

Bea Erskine 835744
berskine@bells6.demon.co.uk

St Saviours, Redbrook

Richard Fordham 01600 714459

St Peters, Clearwell

Charles White TBC

Parish Secretary Alison Stuttard 810934 ali_stuttard@hotmail.com

Parish Treasurer Rosemary Ward 837579

Finance Reps

Terry Bovill 837447 John Simmons 833432

Pat Shuttleworth 01600 713418 Betty Weaver 562680

Alan Day TBC