

www.prestbury.net

Prestbury Parish Magazine

 North Cheltenham
Team Ministry

March 2026



£1

Parish Directory

Team Rector

Revd Nicholas Bromfield 01242 232883
The Rectory, Tatchley Lane GL52 3DQ
nick.bromfield@northchelt.org.uk

Team Vicars

Fr David Lawrence-March
8 Boulton Road GL50 4RZ
fatherdlm@icloud.com

Revd Jacqueline Henson 01242 220053
The Rectory, Rectory Lane, Swindon Village
Cheltenham GL51 9RD
revjacquelinehenson@gmail.com

Reader

Linda Biggs 01242 510856
linda.biggs@northchelt.org.uk

Churchwardens

St Mary

Stewart Wright 07711 887317
stewart.wright@prestbury.net

Helen Mann 07814 638990
helen.mann@prestbury.net

St Nicolas

Janet Waters 01242 678458
janet.waters@prestbury.net

Margaret Compton 01242 235359
margaret.compton@prestbury.net

PCC Secretary

Stella Caney 01242 676143
stella.caney@northchelt.org.uk

PCC Treasurer

Philip Lasseter

Team Office admin@northchelt.org.uk 01242 244373

5 High Street, Prestbury, Cheltenham, GL52 3AR

When the office is unattended please leave a message on the answerphone

Baptisms (Christenings) & Weddings

may be arranged with the Team Office (*contact details above*)

Other Pastoral Matters & Reconciliation (Confession)

please contact one of the clergy (*telephone numbers above*)

Views expressed in this magazine are not necessarily those of the Editors, the Clergy, the Parochial Church Council, or of any authoritative body of the Church of England

*The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of
St Mary and St Nicolas Prestbury Cheltenham - Registered Charity No 1130933*

continued inside back cover

Cover Picture:

The South Porch Entrance at St Mary's Church by Nicola Kershaw

Reflections from the Reverend Jacqueline

The end of February marks the start of Lent – the forty days where Christians reflect on Jesus’ time in the wilderness before returning to Jerusalem. We give up things during the Lent season to remind ourselves of the suffering and pain that we know Jesus will experience at the end of the season.

This is also a time when we might give up things to remind ourselves of the material things in life we could try to manage without, with a view to reflecting on the things which could be more of a priority. Caffeine and chocolate shouldn’t be the things which compel us to live. God’s love and grace is what should compel us to live and love. I haven’t decided yet about whether to give up the Friday night gin and tonic or the weekend glass of wine or both. But giving up any indulgence should remind us of God’s mercy and grace and presence, rather than being treated as some kind of crash diet.

Lent can also be likened to some sort of Spring cleaning. Just like how we may clean our house to prepare for warmer weather or for a guest, we take time to examine our lives and clean our hearts to prepare to encounter the risen Christ at Easter. So we clear out the things that clutter our relationships with God and with others.

Taking a different perspective, we could try to do something positive instead of an overwhelming sense of doomed-to-fail approach. There are people in our communities and wider society who would hugely appreciate some of the luxuries we might give up. What about if we donated the money we save from our daily cup of coffee to charity? Perhaps we might stop using plastic and opt for more environmentally friendly alternatives? Ian Richings, a Churchwarden from St Mary Magdalene’s church is giving up his bed and replacing it for a tent, for the four Fridays in Lent. He will be raising money for Gloucestershire Night Stop and Afrikids – a charity which supports street children in Africa. If you would like to sponsor Ian, please contact me.

However you might choose to commemorate Lent, it is my hope and prayer that you will know God’s love amongst the temptations and challenges of life.

“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.” (Matthew 6:33)

Reverend Jacqueline

This month’s theme is HOLIDAYS

SUNNY VIEW AND MISTY VISTA



Whitsand Bay

It must have been in about 1980 when our two children Tom and Ellie were aged nearly 9 and 5. We had bought a link-house in Longlevens, Gloucester, the mortgage rate was going up alarmingly and funds were very low. That summer, my sister Alison was due to be married in Calabria, way down in the south of Italy, where her fiancée Franco and his family lived. Reluctantly, I had refused the wedding invitation because we did not want to get into any more debt as a result of the inevitable expenses of the long journey. Realising that we had little prospect of a summer holiday, my mother kindly arranged for us a seaside fortnight in a chalet at Whitsand Bay just in Cornwall across the river Tamar. At the time, my parents lived nearby in Thorn Park, Plymouth.

The chalet was perched high on the cliff above Whitsand Bay where the Atlantic breakers rolled onto the sand. The winding paths to the beach descended steeply through brambles, gorse and bracken and it was certainly hard work coming back up. On the beach we swam, learnt to body-surf, explored rockpools and ate cheese sandwiches for lunch. The sea air smelt fresh and full of ozone. Was that the summer when our daughter Ellie was recovering from chickenpox and sang 'Five Little Speckled Frogs' or was it when Tom was recuperating from illness and eating meat and potatoes in large quantities?

When the weather was fine, the chalet lived up to its name of Sunny View, with pink roses and hydrangeas in front and the deep blue sea beyond. When the sea mist rolled in, I called it Misty Vista, and when the rain came in off the Atlantic, everything seemed to become damp and soggy. The chalet was lit by Calor gas lights with mantles and the outside loo was a torchlight visit in the starlit dark, broken by the distant beams of the Eddystone Lighthouse. We could buy provisions at the local shop or drive along narrow lanes to the village of Millbrook for the greengrocers and the butchers for excellent meats and sausages.

At some stage in the fortnight's stay, we drove back into Plymouth to dry out and enjoy some home comforts and a game of table tennis in the loft. What we did not know at the

time was that my youngest sister Janet (then 29) was seriously ill in hospital nearby. She was suffering from polyneuritis as she had developed the rare Guillain-Barré syndrome and was in intensive care in Greenbank Hospital, Plymouth. My mother had wanted to cancel their journey to the far south of Italy, while my father, a doctor, said that they should go, as there was nothing else they could now do to assist in Janet's care which was the best available.

As it was, we only discovered later what had happened. Alison was married in a traditional ceremony in the hill village of Castelsilano, attended by Dr and Mrs Forbes and their eldest daughter Lesley and her husband Anthony. Meanwhile, completely unknown to us, my youngest sister Janet was critically ill in hospital, while we were in a Cornish chalet or Devon house or going between them across the Tamar via the Torpoint chain-ferry. My parents did not tell us anything or leave a note because they did not want to spoil our holiday, or so my mother said. If we had known, we would have visited Janet in hospital. This was all of course long before emails, internet and mobile phones.

We only learnt what had happened to Janet afterwards. A strong young woman who had played squash for Scotland, she was much debilitated by her illness and recovered her muscular strength slowly. She recuperated with us for a week or so staying in Longlevens and I remember her there walking slowly with the aid of a stick. As a botanist, she had applied for and been offered a job in Hong Kong where she was to preserve sites important to the local flora and fauna, about which she had to learn quickly. It all seems a long time ago now and I hope I have recalled the events reasonably accurately.

Duncan Forbes

Prestbury St Mary's Flowers for Easter

St Mary's flower team will be preparing special Easter arrangements in the church on Easter Eve, April 4th. White Easter lilies are always a lovely feature of the displays. If you would like to sponsor a lily in memory of a loved one, there will be envelopes for donations in church during the weeks before Easter. Please write the name of your loved one on the envelope and we will display it on the list.

We would also be pleased to receive any offers of help, either with a donation towards cost of flowers placed in the bowl provided, or with preparing the displays on the day. New members of the flower arranging team would be very welcome. Do speak to one of us to find out more. With a love of flowers and enthusiasm to adorn the church you would be very welcome!



Wendy.Price@prestbury.net

Diane Lyle 01242 570453

After **SOME** holidays, we go home for a rest!

“A relaxing holiday involves destinations with calm beaches, wellness spas, or tranquil nature”.
(AI Overview)

Jackie (my late wife), Angie, and I absolutely agree, but it depends on how you interpret “calm beaches”. Do they have to have the sea still attached, or are they simply an area of sand on the edge of a, now, dry-sand sea - i.e. desert?

Jackie is ready for a gentle 4-hour serene paddle amongst the whales; leopard seals; penguins, and freezing ice floes!



John has found a nice patch of sand under a tree!



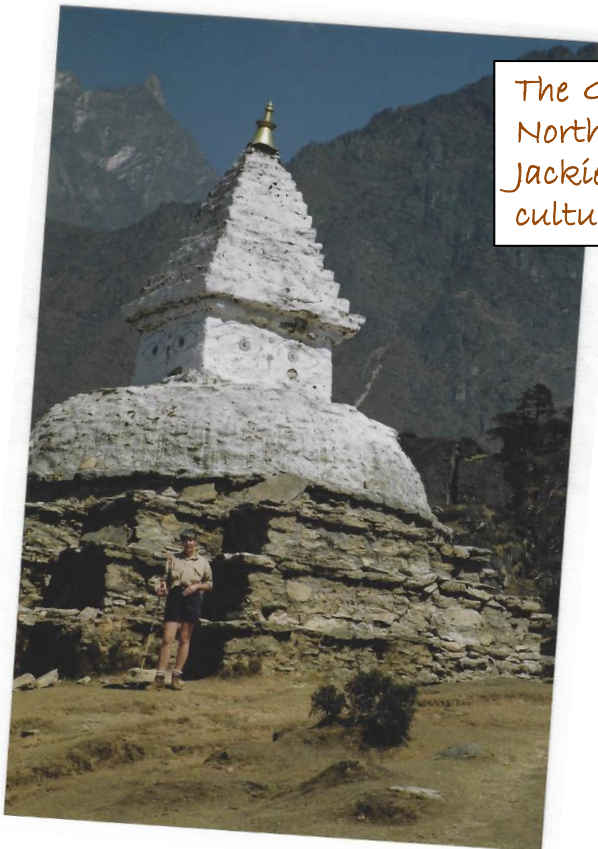
John looking for somewhere to relax for an hour or two, eat his packed lunch and admire the view while waiting to be picked up in a rubber inflatable boat?

Wellness spas often incorporate a gym for exercise. What is exercise, a gentle stroll on a running machine or a vigorous climb at 10,000 feet in the Himalaya or the Andes or maybe 10,000 up in the Haute Pyrénées?

Tranquil nature - is that calm, deep snow or serene scenery or tranquil animals, e.g. a sleeping otter in a swirling mass of freezing water or a calm, barely moving Antarctic Sea with a very angry sea leopard expressing its dissatisfaction at being invaded during meal time?

Enough waffle. A picture is worth a thousand words. We leave you to decide if our interpretations are reasonable:

Text and Photographs: Angie Brassey and John Moles



The Green Eyed Idol to the North of Kathmandu, or Jackie explores some local culture!



Angie - sometimes in minus 4 degrees of temperature it's time to go home before we get out of our depth!



Angie - walking in the High Pyrenees in the mist!

Advertisements



Whether you are a business or an individual,
***we are your local, trusted,
 and dedicated legal experts.***

Pershore

01386 562000

Tewkesbury

01684 299633

Cheltenham

01242 235250

Stratford-upon-Avon

01789 295544

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------|
| ■ Residential property | ■ Buying or selling a business |
| ■ Commercial property | ■ Family law |
| ■ Employment law | ■ Wills & Inheritance tax planning |
| ■ Managing your business | ■ Powers of Attorney |
| ■ Disputes | ■ Injury claims |

Visit the website for our full range of services tbsolicitors.co.uk

KW SHARPENING SERVICES

At KW Sharpening we can provide a professional service to sharpen almost all bladed items be it Garden Tools, Kitchen Knives or Chainsaws. We use the latest machines to give you the best service and sharpest edge for your tools. We pride ourselves on having 133 5 Star reviews on Google. If in any doubt, please give me a ring to discuss your sharpening needs.

We specialise in the following:

- Dog Grooming Scissors and Clipper Blades
- Horse Clipper Blades
- Clipper Servicing
- Hairdressing / Barbering Scissor
- Carpentry Tools Chisels, Planer Blades etc..
- Circular / Chop Saw Blades



Please give me, Ken a ring to arrange a booking, and subject to prior workload most jobs are done in 48 hrs.

If an item is needed urgently, I keep slots available for a same day service and if the workload allows it can be done whilst you wait.

Unit 15 Space Business Centre, Tewksbury Road (Behind Homebase) Cheltenham GL51 9FL

Call: **07379 422942** Email: ken@kwsharpening.co.uk

Instagram: [@kw_sharpening](https://www.instagram.com/kw_sharpening) Web: www.kwsharpening.co.uk

HOLIDAYS**'CLASSIFIED'**

Wandering around Cheltenham Town Hall at a holiday exhibition in 1987, almost forty years ago, my wife Pamela and I passed a trade stand selling cruises. Well, I passed it, but she hovered. The reason for her hovering was that the travel agent tasked with selling this particular Mediterranean cruise had an intriguing catchphrase with which he bombarded passers-by. It was "WANNA SAVE A THOUSAND ON A CRUISE?" Me, thinking this had to be a con, walked on. She, ever thrifty, allowed this man to exercise his salesmanship on her. True enough, the cost of this ten-day cruise from Athens to Southampton was drastically reduced in price from £1,200 to £200 per person. Evidently, the ship, *La Palma*, would not sail without a full complement of passengers and the last three cabins needed to be filled, hence the reduction in price.

We drove home, thought hard about the offer over tea and crumpets, and decided to take a chance. I jumped in the car, arrived back at the Town Hall just as the trade stands were being dismantled and grabbed the very last cabin!

A few days later, as we waited outside the Town Hall with fellow passengers for the bus that would take us to Bristol Airport, we noticed a young, bearded man with his wife and baby. Were they really taking a baby on a cruise? Commonplace nowadays but not in 1987. The bus arrived and to our surprise, the lady who was in charge of the baby gave it to the man, turned round, headed for her car and drove away. She did not even give her husband, if he were her husband, a farewell kiss. Odd! At Athens we were taken to see the Acropolis, given a tour of the city, plied with Ouzo, driven to the port of Piraeus and to the good ship, *La Palma*. We liked the look of her. She was small, looked like a proper ship and very different from the splendid floating tower blocks that grace the seas today. Evidently, when she entered service in 1952 as the *Ferdinand de Lesseps*, she was deployed on a long-distance passenger and freight route from Marseille to ports in East Africa, Madagascar and beyond, via the Suez Canal. Ferdinand de Lesseps, the French diplomat and entrepreneur, was the driving force responsible for the construction of the Suez Canal, which was opened in 1869, providing a new, direct trade route between Europe and Asia. The ship was sold and renamed at least four times before being broken up in India in 2003 after 51 years' service.

When Pam and I sailed on *La Palma*, she carried 800 passengers, a lively little concert party and a Commodore with impeccable manners, dressed in resplendent uniform with four gold bands decorating the cuff of each sleeve. Before sailing out of Piraeus, the Greek Captain and crew had a disagreement with the Commodore who sacked them all on the spot and began looking for replacements. This meant a delay to our departure. Eventually, we left port and sailed out into the Mediterranean and a force 10 gale. The excitement had begun!

We were now following "in the steps of St Paul". Would we sail safely into port at Malta, or would we be shipwrecked on the rocky shores of the island, as St Paul was in 60 AD when the ship that was taking him to Rome was caught in a violent storm? Thankfully all was well, the storm abated and we sailed majestically into Grand Harbour in the evening sunlight. Passengers were at last permitted up on deck. Also taking in the fresh sea air was the man with the baby. This was the first time we had seen him since boarding the bus in Cheltenham. Already we had made friends with a couple who lived between Churchdown and Gloucester. The wife worked at GCHQ and told us that although she had never

spoken to him, she had often seen our 'mystery man' at her place of employment. Someone else had identified the baby's 'mother' as a nurse from Gloucester Royal.

Next morning when passengers were allowed to disembark, Pam and I took the first bus from the ship up to the bus terminus close to Castille, once British Army HQ and where I used to work, now the Maltese Government Offices. To our surprise, crowds were lining the route from Floriana to Valletta, and we were even more surprised to see our 'mystery man' among the crowd and quite close to us. The baby was in a baby carrier on his back. How did they get up here before us? We'd been first off the ship! Very soon, a cavalcade of limousines appeared heading for Castille, the leading one flying the Russian flag on its bonnet. A sideways glance revealed 'our man' now holding a cine camera and filming the occupants of each car at close quarters.

Back on board, we saw no more of our 'man from GCHQ' and as the sun went down, we sailed out of Grand Harbour. Next morning *La Palma* began to pick up speed, so much so, that the whole ship started to shudder with the effort. With Pam at my heels, I raced up on deck!

Keeping pace with us was the periscope of a submarine, which was a change from dolphins and far more exciting! After a few minutes and continued shuddering, the sub was replaced by a Coastal Command twin-engined aircraft. This flew very low and only about 30 metres from the ship. Even so, its slowest speed was faster than *La Palma's* top speed, so it made five or six circuits, each one coming very close to the ship. It was as if both submarine and plane wanted to make contact with *La Palma* but had to have a minimum frequency so as not to be picked up by Colonel Gaddafi's radio stations on the Libyan coastline. Gaddafi was at the time the ruthless dictator of Libya, a major funder of the Provisional IRA and enemy of the West. All this time there was no sign of man and baby. Was he, I began to wonder, making radio contact in his cabin with our RAF and Navy escorts? My imagination was working overtime and the ship continued shuddering until we were well away from Libya.

A couple of hours later, man and baby appeared on deck. This time, against Pam's advice, I decided to follow him when he went below, making sure not to be seen. Not entirely to my surprise, he went straight past a notice saying, 'CREW ONLY, NO ADMITTANCE'. I did likewise. Half-way along the passage, he entered a door on the right. My plan was to walk past his door, about-turn and if challenged, pretend I was lost. Ridiculous really, on such a small ship. The 'man from GCHQ' had placed himself on his bed, facing the open door with baby on lap. Obviously, he knew he was being followed and my so-called stealth was blatantly exposed. He had set himself up with the intention of having a good look at me and there was no way I could escape his gaze. I made my way back out of the crew's quarters, into my cabin and into the loving arms of my very concerned wife. Where, I thought, do we go from here?

Next day, Pam and I were up on deck enjoying the sunshine when man and baby appeared. The baby was strapped to his back (as it had been outside Castille), which gave him freedom to operate his cine camera. It seemed to me he had something more important than the distant coastline to record. And so it was.....! I watched him pan his camera until it came to a stop. I was a little alarmed that the subject which now filled his viewfinder was me! This was a ploy I had used often on racecourses when asked by The Jockey Club to discreetly photograph certain 'undesirables'. I would pretend to photograph the horses as

they paraded around the paddock and then allow my camera to rest on not only the individual, but the people he was with, before going back to the horses. So I was familiar with the technique.

Our 'man from GCHQ' kept panning his camera and coming back to me before disappearing below. I'm pretty sure a set of photographs and a strip of film would have arrived back in Cheltenham before I did. *La Palma*, now tied up at Gibraltar, gave Pam and me chance to climb the rock, talk to the Barbary apes who reside there, and enjoy the carpet of wildflowers that covered the slopes. We saw no more of man and baby, so I imagine, job done, either the Royal Navy or RAF had seen them safely back to the UK. As for me, I would not be at all surprised if I haven't been filed away in a drawer labelled 'UNDER SUSPICION' in some fire and bomb-proof underground chamber at Government Communications Headquarters!

Bernard Parkin



La Palma

Be careful what you promise!

Being a single parent for several years our holidays had been very much restricted to basic caravan holidays in this country - usually in Devon or Pembrokeshire. We had always enjoyed these breaks and I was grateful that my salary stretched far enough to enable us to get away and by careful budgeting we always managed a few treats while we were there. Yet my Lego-mad children always longed to visit Legoland in Denmark but I always had to explain that the cost was beyond us. One day I foolishly said that if I gained a promotion at work to a management role then I would take them. ►

◀ Well, the unexpected happened as I was promoted and then I knew that I had to keep my promise. To be honest when I told my children about my promotion it was the first thing they said, "So we can go to Legoland!" Travelling to Legoland was by no means straightforward as few companies did packages to Denmark but in the summer of 1991 we set off - one mum with a nine year old daughter and a seven year old son and luggage. We caught the train to Paddington and then we had to negotiate crossing London by underground to Liverpool Street. This was a challenge in itself as I was not an experienced user of the Tube but we made it and caught the train to Harwich where we boarded the ferry to Esbjerg.

I am not a great sailor and some friends had persuaded me to abandon my normal travel sickness tablets in favour of travel sickness bands which they swore were more effective. That evening was fine but on the 22-hour crossing I woke to find in the morning that the sea was a lot rougher and I was distinctly queasy! I was then faced with the dilemma that both my children wanted breakfast but every time I moved I was sick. Eventually I had to give them some krone and instruct them to return to the cabin with some breakfast for themselves and a bottle of water for me! I must have fallen asleep because I was woken by the children shouting, "Wake up mum! We're passing land!". Indeed we were and because we were in an estuary the sea had calmed so I was able to move and, shortly after, stagger off the boat clutching my instructions to find "Den bla bus". This proved to be quite easy so I confidently climbed aboard waving my piece of paper and the elderly driver spoke to me in Danish. I was floored. I tried again using the magic word of "Legoland" but once again he responded in Danish and used no gestures indicating that we could board. Luckily a young Danish couple came to our aid and explained that he was just asking if we were the English family that he was expecting! Only we could find the only person in Denmark who didn't speak English!

So far this sounds like the holiday from hell but after this the magic began. We were staying in the Legoland hotel so we had direct access to the park. The hotel was decorated with amazing sculptures made of Lego. We had a large parrot in our corridor and in the dining room there was a flock of flying geese created entirely from bricks. It was amazing. Dinner consisted of a smorgasbord with a huge selection of fish and the children's smorgasbord even had chips in the shape of Lego bricks. We had free access to the park even after it had closed to the public and whilst the rides weren't working my children could play in the playgrounds and we could explore the miniature villages. Our days were spent enjoying the rides and panning for gold (honestly!) and we went on the pirate caves ride so often that the men on duty greeted us like old friends. Emma was able to take a driving test in a miniature electric car. This was a sore point for her brother because he was too young to participate. For lunch we toasted rolls over a campfire in the Western town part of the park and these were filled with a spicy sausage. There were children there of many different nationalities which my two happily mixed with. The sun shone and it really was a fabulous experience. Even my return ferry crossing was made tolerable thanks to some Danish travel sickness pills.

When we returned, still buzzing from our experiences - even the bad bits - somebody asked me, "Why can't you be like a normal family and go on a package to Spain?". I think our amazing memories answered that question.

Janet Waters

Safeguarding

As a Parish we are obliged to follow the national guidelines regarding Safeguarding. Most groups within our church are required to have the minimum level of safeguarding training. This includes the following:

- Church Choir Members
- Servers
- Sides people / Welcomers
- Bell ringers
- Flower Arrangers
- Open the Book
- Dearly Pre-Loved Volunteers
- Bereavement Support Group
- Prayer Group
- PCC members - also require Foundation Level training and a current DBS certificate

Following my recent audit of safeguarding training across the Parish (St Nicolas' and St Mary's) I am delighted to report that we have 180 volunteers involved in various teams or groups which require the Basic Awareness level of Safeguarding training. Many volunteers have responded to my request to check that their training is still current and have updated their certificate or attended the recent training session - thank you! However, there are still 30 volunteers whose training is now out of date! You will know who you are! Could I politely request that it is completed as soon as possible and I am informed.

Many thanks for all your hard work in the life of our Parish.

Linda Biggs, Parish Safeguarding Officer

Notice of Prestbury APCM – Sunday 26th April 2026

The Annual Meeting of Parishioners, which begins at 3.30 on Sunday 26th April (preceded by Afternoon Tea, with cake, at 3.00), at St Nicolas' Church, is a short meeting to elect Churchwardens: two for St Mary's and two for St Nicolas'. Candidates must be nominated and seconded before the meeting begins and nomination lists will also be displayed on the notice boards of both churches. Anyone who lives within the parish or who is on the church electoral roll may attend and vote at this meeting.

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting will follow the Annual Meeting of Parishioners. This is a chance to come to hear a review and reports of what has taken place during the last year, together with plans for the future and an opportunity to ask questions.

At the meeting, elections to the Parochial Church Council (PCC) take place. Nominations for PCC members will be displayed on the notice boards of both churches for at least the two Sundays prior to the meeting. Candidates must be proposed and seconded by a person who is on the Electoral Roll of the parish, and they should also have been asked if they are willing to stand.

Stella Caney, PCC Secretary

Prestbury Memorial Trust – Highlights of 2025

The arrival in September of the ‘new’ improved minibus was without doubt the most important event of the year. Jenny, our Warden, describes it as comfortable, easy to drive, easier to park and a better all-round journey for both passengers and drivers! It is used for weekly supermarket shopping trips, for collecting members for lunch club and for the sit and fit class on a Wednesday. In the summer Jenny organises trips to a local garden centre for some shopping and the essential cup of tea! If there are any volunteers willing to drive, we would welcome your help and would provide training. The rotas are flexible and can be arranged around you.



Contact Jenny for more information at prestburymt@gmail.com

In November, Matt our very supportive landlord at the Royal Oak came up with all sorts of ideas to raise money during the Butcombe Community Charity week. He gathered over 40 promises of gifts and services for a grand raffle. On the Thursday he hosted a coffee and cake morning in the Pavilion which was well attended by members and friends of the Trust. Gloria, our chairwoman, and Sally, our secretary, served cakes, Heather and her daughter brought some beautiful cards and gifts - ideal for Christmas presents and Sue manned the ever-popular jam-and-chutney stall.



Matt certainly turned heads that morning with a mop of purple hair to draw attention to the fact that he was to have it shaved off the next day – brave man! On Sunday we gathered at the Oak with Matt to celebrate a great week of fund raising by the community which raised a total of £1500 for Trust funds!



In December we held our annual Christmas tea party in the WI Hall. The guests were entertained by the St Mary's school choir and after sherry and a delicious tea prepared by the members of the WI, the Christmas Elf arrived to distribute presents. Our volunteer drivers appeared as if by magic and chauffeured the guests back home. Thank you to everyone involved in the organisation of the afternoon.

Starting in September we launched our 2025 quiz season. Each month during the winter we hold a fun quiz compiled and delivered by volunteers and attended by 60-70 enthusiastic quizzers! The Christmas quiz was set by Steve and Alice Watson and won by Margot's Team (Margot features front and centre, an invaluable team mate!)



January's quiz was different! Matt and Pete were the quizmasters and rounds ranged from techy knowledge to the Mr Men series. The Old Boots team (they ramble together) won. Congratulations!

We are grateful to everyone who takes part, to Matt for welcoming us and to Knight Frank for providing the bottles of fizz. With no overheads we raised over £2000!



During the year we launched a new web site covering the history of the Trust, its activities and how to get involved. Please find us at prestburymemorialtrust.org.uk

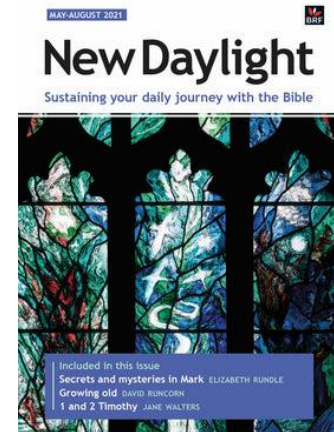
Jane Banwell

Bible Reading Fellowship Daily Notes May 2026 - April 2027

These daily notes are written by many different authors and cover a variety of well-known and less familiar Bible passages, with thought provoking commentary for every day of the year.

The available titles are as follows:

New Daylight	£5.99
New Daylight Large Print	£7.25
Guidelines	£5.99
Day by Day with God	£5.99
Get Messy	£5.99
Upper Room	£5.99
Bible reflections for Older People	£5.99
BRF Prayer Diary	FREE



I have samples of most of these if you would like to borrow and look at them.

All books are issued **3 times a year** and we pay the subscription for the whole year in advance, for the period May 2026 – April 2027. However, the order can be cancelled during the year and a refund obtained if necessary.

The time for renewal of subscriptions is approaching. There is no postage charge when ordering all our books as a group. I would be very pleased to hear from any member of our Team congregations who would like to join the scheme and place an order with the group. If there are any changes or cancellations by existing readers, please let me know as soon as possible as our order should be submitted **before 7th March 2026**.

BRF are also making these publications available on-line if you would prefer this format. See brf.org.uk for more details.

I look forward to hearing from you if you wish to change your order or start a new subscription.

For further information please contact Wendy Price 07961 392496

dw.price@btinternet.com

Marle Hill WI

We met on Monday 2 February 2026 at St Nicolas Church Hall.

Our speaker this month was Sarah Davies who gave us a very interesting insight into dementia. Members were very impressed with her talk and gained a lot of important information.

Our monthly lunch and book club dates were given out to the members.

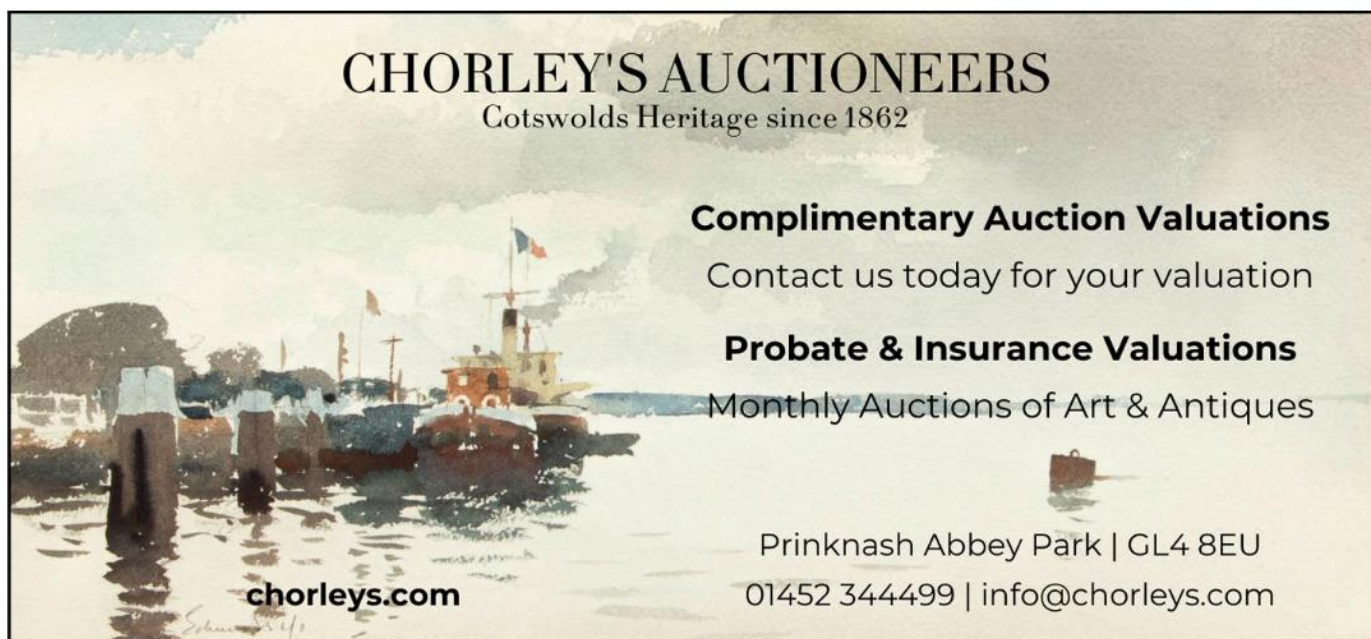
Do come and join us and have some ME time and enjoy the company of like-minded ladies. Our next meeting is on Monday 2 March 2026 and our speaker will be Sue Dove who will be talking about her life as an adult tutor.

We will have the usual Bring and Buy table, with items left over going to the charity shop.

If you want any more information, contact Sara Jefferies.

Sue Davies

Advertisements




CHORLEY'S AUCTIONEERS
Cotswolds Heritage since 1862

Complimentary Auction Valuations
Contact us today for your valuation

Probate & Insurance Valuations
Monthly Auctions of Art & Antiques

Prinknash Abbey Park | GL4 8EU
01452 344499 | info@chorleys.com

chorleys.com




Ying Gibb Dip.FHP
Registered Foot Health Practitioner

Home Visits

Nail trimming	Nail Problems
Ingrown toenails	Fungal nail
Corns	Calluses
Athletes foot	Cracked heels
Diabetes foot issues	Verrucas
Foot care advice	

Ph 07478939108



ying_london2000@yahoo.co.uk




GARDEN DESIGN
by GUY

Specialist styles:
Mediterranean and Cottage Garden

I will assess your current arrangement and work with you to create a vibrant, cheerful and welcoming space to relax

- Consultation
- Site survey
- Concept plan
- Scaled working plan

01242 702212 07719 283564

TURN TO US FOR HELP AND SUPPORT

In your time of need we'll take care of all the funeral arrangements.
Call us 24 hours a day.

- Pre-Arranged Funeral Plans
- Memorial & Headstone advice and products

SELIM SMITH & CO FUNERAL DIRECTORS

74 Prestbury Road, Cheltenham GL52 2DJ

01242 525383



Part of Dignity plc. A British Company.



C1 To advertise your business please contact advertising@prestbury.net

Forthcoming Events

Bereavement Friendship Group

We will be meeting in St Mary’s Church, Prestbury on Monday 16 March at 2.15-4pm

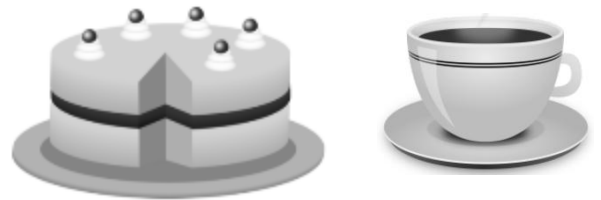
If you have lost a loved one and would like to talk to others in a similar situation, please come along. You will be most welcome, whether you are new or have come before.

Light refreshments will be provided.

Marion Povey

Welcome on Wednesday

Wednesday 18 March at 2.30pm in the St Nicolas Room. There will be home-made cakes, tea or coffee for £2 and the chance to meet friends and have a friendly chat. So please come along, maybe bringing a neighbour?



Soup and Pudding Lunch

Saturday 21 March, 12.00 for 12.30pm serving at Prestbury WI Hall, Prestbury Road

£8 Tickets must be purchased in advance

Please contact Prestbury WI at prestburygloswi@gmail.com

Menu available on request



QUIZ in aid of Friends of St Mary’s

on Thursday 2 April 2026 7:30pm

at The Royal Oak Pavilion

£6 per person. Bar Meals available £10

Tickets Contact:

Helen Eagger 07765 903406 WhatsApp

Everyone Welcome!



Parish Directory *continued*

Children's Work

Linda Biggs 01242 510856
linda.biggs@prestbury.net

Safeguarding Officer

Linda Biggs 07769 581822

Parish Magazine

Editor: Brian Wood 01242 515941
magazine@prestbury.net
Advertising: Richard Johnson 07535 417828
advertising@prestbury.net

St Mary's C of E (VA) Schools

Executive Head Teacher: Mr Matt Ferris
01242 383817

Hall Letting

Prestbury Hall, Bouncers Lane 01242 239590
bookings@prestburyhall.com
St Nicolas Hall, Swindon Lane
hallhire@northchelt.org.uk

Parish Giving Scheme

76 Kingsholm Road,
Gloucester GL1 3BD 0333 002 1260
info@parishgiving.org.uk

Copy Dates and Themes for Future Magazines 2026

Issue	Copy Date	Theme
April	Sunday 15 March	Modern Life
May	Sunday 12 April	Pleasure
June	Sunday 17 May	The Sea
July	Sunday 14 June	British Summer Time
August	Sunday 12 July	Desert Island Discs
September	Sunday 16 August	Ireland
October	Sunday 13 September	Scotland
November	Sunday 11 October	Wales
Dec / Jan	Sunday 15 November	Memorials

Prestbury Parish Magazine is usually published on the last Sunday of the month. The copy date is usually the Sunday 2 weeks before this, but there may be scope for some flexibility.

Copy may be sent in a clearly marked envelope to 'Prestbury Parish Magazine'
2 Honeysuckle Close, Prestbury, Cheltenham, GL52 5LN
or preferably by email to magazine@prestbury.net

April 2026 Magazine Theme: Modern Life
Please send copy by Sunday 15 March 2026
or soon after

**AWARD-
WINNING
FOOD**



**CASK ALE,
CRAFT BEER
& CIDER**



**BEAUTIFUL
BEER
GARDEN**



Planning an event or party?

Ask us about
The Pavilion, our versatile
private hire space.

royaloakprestbury.co.uk

royaloakprestbury@butcombepubs.com

01242 522344

 @royaloakprestbury

The Royal Oak, The Burgage, Prestbury,
Gloucestershire, GL52 3DL



25% OFF FOOD AT THE ROYAL OAK

All day every Wednesday for Butcombe Loyalty Club members

Join the club:
butcombe.com/loyalty

Scan to download the
Butcombe Loyalty App

