

Chippenham Deanery News

October 2024

Connecting with God, Connecting with each other, Connecting with our Communities and Caring for Creation in Christ's Name



FROM THE AREA DEAN

The seasons have changed, and autumn is here: change is an inevitable but often welcome part of life, although sometimes we would rather things stayed the same! At the Deanery we are experiencing change as we lay the groundwork for our Mission Area and look to transform Church together in our generation, and for future generations. This can be challenging, but it also offers new possibilities and opportunities as God's Spirit leads us. The Mission Area opens up potential for growth and for unity in mission, with the timeless Gospel message of hope, salvation and forgiveness in Jesus. So, there is much to pray for and to trust God for in what we don't yet see except by faith!

'For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of Godfor God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control'. 2 Timothy 1-7.

A big change for me in January, will be the end of my tenure as Area Dean after more than 9 years serving Chippenham Deanery. It has been a privilege to serve and support the Deanery clergy and congregations in this way, and I look forward to passing the baton on to the next Area Dean and seeing what comes next for us all.

Chippenham Mission Area (OUR Mission Area) – Autumn Update

We trust the summer months have been kind to you. That you have sensed and experienced God's presence with you in real and tangible ways. That you are joining together talking, sharing and praying for our town of Chippenham and our opportunity as a mission area for the Kingdom.

As this is being written we are readvertising for a Youth Worker to join us in Chippenham, working across the town. This has always been a major part of our mission area plans given the number of schools in our town and need for us all as church to engage with families and younger generations more than we already do. We continue to pray for the right person to be guided and appointed.


We also pray for Becky, the St Paul's Youth Minister and James, as they journey towards parenthood. And give thanks for Joe, who will be working as Youth Minister from St Paul's during Becky's maternity leave. Any incoming Youth Worker for the mission area will of course have a working relationship with them as we all hope to grow faith influence among the younger generations of the town.

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It has been challenging to foster togetherness as a developing mission area, particularly in the light of clergy and minister vacancies across the town and new appointments settling in. However, we are slowly getting there, and healthy working relationships are growing. Thanks be to God. And we pray for the right person to be guided and appointed in the upcoming incumbent interviews for Greenways Benefice.

Loving God.
We recognise we are stronger together, united under the banner of your love, sharing the gifts you graciously grant us, and intentionally working together.
Bond us in your love Lord.
Envision and embolden us to proclaim and live out your good news.
We offer ourselves to you as you build your church around Chippenham.
We stand united.

We desire our unique and different backgrounds, experiences, skills and hopes, to be united in purpose, in the name of Jesus. And as we are empowered by your Holy Spirit, help us to creatively reach out together to those in and around Chippenham who are yet to know you personally and accept Jesus as Lord and Saviour. AMEN

A map of Chippenham, showing the town's layout, roads, and green spaces. The name 'CHIPPENHAM' is visible on the map.

As we regather in various groups and meetings after the summer months. Please do support and engage with your deanery reps as they offer themselves as links to the Mission and Deanery Leadership Team and Deanery Synod.

Eco-Church: Award for St Mary's, Marshfield

St Mary's Church has just won a community award from South Gloucestershire Council for its eco actions. The Climate and Nature Emergency Competition was set up to celebrate 5 years of S Glos Council action since the authority signed its climate and nature emergency declaration. The church will receive £100 towards churchyard management costs. See the link here for a 3 minute promotional video produced by the Council :



<https://youtu.be/yxqioZoGUfM>
Following an energy audit, St Mary's took decisive action to become a Net Zero carbon church. Solar panels were installed on the church roof; oil-fuelled heaters were replaced with an electric chandelier heating and lighting system complete with LED bulbs; and the churchyard petrol mower and trimmer were replaced with rechargeable battery powered machines. The churchyard is now managed for nature and people and the latest initiative is St Mary's Scythers, a team of volunteers trained to use traditional scythes to cut back the grass and wildflower sward after the spring and summer growth.

An eight-bin composting system, three beehives, sustainable floristry initiative, zero chemicals policy and a swift hotel in the bell tower add to the actions taken which has allowed the church to use the £10,000 grant offered towards net zero carbon outcomes.

The Diocese is now using St Mary's as a resource for those who wish to see chandelier heaters in action or find out about PV panels on south facing church roofs. St Mary's Marshfield has also recently achieved the Silver Eco Church Award and are well on the way to Gold.

DEANERY FINANCES: Aurea Hart, Deanery Treasurer



Accounts for 2024

It was agreed at Deanery Synod that the subscription for 2024 should return to the pre-COVID sum of £20 per representative and a request for this was sent out to PCC Treasurers in March. The response has been very good, many Treasurers choosing to pay by bank transfer instead of by cheque and 70% of parishes had paid by July. A reminder in August resulted in five more payments (Total received £780). The two still outstanding are Grittleton and Nettleton (£40). Only expenditure £33.00 to St Peter's PCC for hire of rooms.

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| Balance on 20 th September 2024: | General account | £ 745.29 |
| | Uganda fund | <u>£ 936.93</u> |
| | Balance | £1,682.22 |



Reflections and prayers to help you find and follow God in everyday life

Everyday Faith is the new daily devotional app from the Church of England designed to inspire, equip and encourage you in your faith every day of the week, not just on Sundays. You can download for both Apple and Android devices on this link:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/faith-life/exploring-faith/everyday-faith>



Saturday, 16 November 9:30am - 4pm

Location Holy Trinity Church
Broad Croft Bradley Stoke
BS32 0BD

Book on:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/mental-health-and-belonging-in-our-churches-tickets-919454271477?aff=ebsdoporgprofile>

Free course.



THE NATIONAL DEANERIES NETWORK

SUPPORTING DEANERIES IN MISSION

The NDN have been running a series of online briefings focusing on the key issues of our time. Details of forthcoming briefings and access to past briefings can be found here:

<https://www.nationaldeaneries.net/?p=9910>



School of Prayer
 Launching Autumn 2024
 Join Us for an 8-Week Course on Prayer

- Designed for beginners – Whether you're just starting or have been praying for a while, this course is perfect for you.
- Create a rhythm of life – With ongoing support and guidance, you'll develop a regular prayer practice.
- An experiential course – Learn to pray by actively praying throughout the course.
- A supportive community – Journey alongside fellow learners in a welcoming environment.
- Zoom-based – Accessible to participants from across the diocese, no matter where you are.

We look forward to growing in prayer together!

Sign up here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/school-of-prayer-tickets-1014604678907>

DATES
 November: 5th, 12th, 19th & 26th
 January: 21st & 28th
 February: 4th & 11th

All sessions run from 7.30 until 9pm

RHYTHM OF LIFE

As part of the Rhythm of Life, the Diocese are holding an 8-week prayer course launching on Tuesday 5 November on Zoom.

- Designed for beginners – Whether you're just starting or have been praying for a while, this course is perfect for you.
- Create a rhythm of life – With ongoing support and guidance, you'll develop a regular prayer practice.
- An experiential course – Learn to pray by actively praying throughout the course.
- A supportive community – Journey alongside fellow learners in a welcoming environment.

Book on this link:

https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/school-of-prayer-tickets-1014604678907?dm_i=7MDZ,64AN,1TWO2D,QDRW,1

Our Next Meeting

28th November +Neil and Archdeacon Christopher will be attending our Synod to talk with and hear from us.