

# Beacon



www.beaconbenefice.org.uk

# Light

Online

...linking the Beacon Parishes

**Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> March – 2nd Sunday of Lent**

9.30am	Painswick	Holy Communion
9.30am	Pitchcombe	Morning Prayer
11.00am	Cranham	Holy Communion
11.00am	Harescombe	Holy Communion
11.00am	Sheepscombe	Morning Worship & APCM

*We ask you to please wear a face mask in church, unless you have a medical reason not to and make use of the hand sanitiser provided as you enter. Whilst face coverings are no longer legally required, this measure will help us keep our community safe. Good ventilation is part of covid precautions and our churches may be less warm as a result. Please dress accordingly.*

## **UKRAINE: a message from Bishop Rachel**

So many words come to mind as we watch and hear events unfold in Ukraine and indeed in Russia.

Lord have mercy.

People continue to speculate on the psychological, political, and religious backdrop to Putin's act of evil aggression and I have been grateful for various briefings in recent days. Yet whatever the soil of this abhorrent attack, the reality is that thousands of people are suffering, and Bishop Robert and I invite you to respond in two key ways:

1. **Financial support:** The Diocese in Europe have launched an appeal with USPG for humanitarian aid both in Ukraine and with Refugees across Europe. This will support the work of Churches and Christian Agencies both urgently now and in the longer term. The detail is here: [Ukraine appeal release](https://ukraine-emergency-appeal.raisely.com/). This is where you can give online <https://ukraine-emergency-appeal.raisely.com/>

You can also donate to the Disaster Emergency Committee Appeal. Donations to their appeal go to their member charities and their local partners responding in Ukraine and in neighbouring countries. DEC charities are experts in humanitarian relief with decades of responding to crises around the world – from earthquakes to floods as well as conflicts.



It is understandable that people want to collect items such as clothes and equipment and it can psychologically make us feel better, but the reality is that we are being asked not to collect items and seek to transport them, but rather to give financially.

2. **Prayer:** In the face of such overwhelming horror we need to pray. As we bring our heartfelt requests to God so we too are transformed. As we long to 'have the mind of Christ' (1 Corinthians 2:16) we enter more fully into the heart of God and desire to see as God sees.

As we pray for the people of Ukraine, let us pray also for the people of Russia.

There is a prayer for peace in Israel Palestine which I find poignant because it speaks of not dividing Arab and Jew, or Palestinian and Israeli in our prayers lest we divide them in our hearts. The same is true of the people of Ukraine and Russia.

Please continue to pray for Christ Church, Kyiv whose members are either sheltering or attempting to flee, and for St Andrew's, Moscow which is facing considerable challenges in a commitment to be Christ's light and hope.

[https://europe.anglican.org/main/latest-news/post/1783-resources-for-the-ukraine-crisis-](https://europe.anglican.org/main/latest-news/post/1783-resources-for-the-ukraine-crisis) Father Liubomyr of the Ukrainian Church in Gloucester, and Father Mark of the Russian Orthodox church in Cheltenham are very grateful for our prayers as fellow members of the Body of Christ.

There will undoubtedly be people gathering to pray in different ways and at different times across the diocese, and one such opportunity we have been asked to mention is 'Cheltenham Welcomes Refugees' who invite any who are local to Cheltenham to join in prayer (every Wednesday 5pm-6pm) at St. Gregory's Church, Cheltenham, to pray for the situation in Ukraine.

### **A desire to do something more ...**

People are also asking how they can offer rooms and hospitality. The Government have now announced a Sponsorship programme for those fleeing Ukraine, but as yet there are no plans as to how that will work. We will keep people posted and bishops are staying in touch regarding the situation.

In the meantime, one suggestion which is being promoted by a number of people is to register with the Sanctuary Foundation <https://www.sanctuaryfoundation.org.uk/> This is an initiative led by Kris Kandiah who is a Christian and has been good at engaging with Government in the past. It is important to stress that registering does not yet sign you up to anything specific, but it is a way of registering a commitment to practical support, and will give the Home Office an idea of the scale of interest.

A number of us are also keeping in close contact with GARAS (Gloucestershire Action for Refugees and Asylum Seekers) of which I am a patron <https://www.garas.org.uk/> . They have been working for many years with asylum seekers and refugees and those being resettled in Gloucestershire, including Afghans from the situation in the summer last year, and are wise advisers. Do pray for the staff and volunteers who were already under great pressure even before the invasion of Ukraine.

And finally, as we pray for GARAS and for the awful refugee crisis arising from the suffering in Ukraine, let us also hold in our prayers the many other painful situations across our world where people are being displaced through the horrors of war and conflict, aware

that visual images and heart-wrenching stories from these places do not always reach us via our main media channels:

'Our Father in Heaven,  
Hallowed be your name,  
Your kingdom come  
Your will be done  
On earth as in heaven..'

## Readings

### *Collect*

Almighty God,  
by the prayer and discipline of Lent  
may we enter into the mystery of Christ's sufferings,  
and by following in his Way  
come to share in his glory;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

### *Psalm 27*

The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?  
The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

When evildoers assail me to devour my flesh—  
my adversaries and foes— they shall stumble and fall.

Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear;  
though war rise up against me, yet I will be confident.

One thing I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after:  
to live in the house of the LORD all the days of my life,  
to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in his temple.

For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble;  
he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will set me high on a rock.

Now my head is lifted up above my enemies all around me,  
and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy;  
I will sing and make melody to the LORD.

Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud, be gracious to me and answer me!  
'Come,' my heart says, 'seek his face!' Your face, LORD, do I seek.  
Do not hide your face from me.

Do not turn your servant away in anger, you who have been my help.  
Do not cast me off, do not forsake me, O God of my salvation!  
If my father and mother forsake me, the LORD will take me up.

Teach me your way, O LORD, and lead me on a level path  
because of my enemies.

Do not give me up to the will of my adversaries,  
for false witnesses have risen against me,  
and they are breathing out violence.

I believe that I shall see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.  
Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage;  
wait for the LORD!

### ***The Gospel according to Luke 13.31-35***

At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, 'Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.' He said to them, 'Go and tell that fox for me, "Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed away from Jerusalem." Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, "Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord." '

### ***This is the Gospel of the Lord***

In our reading today, Jesus Christ faces familiar foes in the Pharisees. Even though Jesus is performing miracles to the benefit of the community, the religious elite wants no part of it or him. In response Christ is resilient, defiant and brave as he insists that God's work is paramount to any request or law from Herod or the Pharisees. Jesus' stance is a reminder that in following him we are called to stand up for justice, love and the welfare of our surrounding communities. This may mean forsaking loved ones/friends, defying societal norms or doing the unpopular. It also means spirit-filled joy, countless blessings and an abundance of grace.

- In what ways do you see yourself following Jesus and standing up for Jesus?
- How do you stand up for justice and love?
- When is it difficult to do that? When might it be easy?

### **Beacon People**

Our prayers are asked for all who are sick, especially **Rebecca Applebee-Crabb, Richard Garrett, Frauke Hankamer, Andrea Linsell and Jenipher Pritchard** . Pray for all those people, whether they are relatives or friends, who care for the sick and disabled in their own homes and for those undergoing cancer treatment at this time.

We pray also for all the charities which this benefice supports, including Christian Aid, GARAS, Marah, Sportily , Stroud Citizens Advice, Stroud Foodbank and The Vine Project and all from our churches and villages who work in the NHS and in care homes.

We also remember before God all who have died recently, especially **Joyce Smith**, as well as all whose anniversaries of death fall at this time. May they and all the departed rest in peace and rise in glory.

There will be a **memorial service for the late Joy Butler** of Richmond Village on April 1st at 12.00noon. All are invited to attend.

## Notices

Thank you to all who contributed to the Christian Aid bucket collection for **the Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal** at the Benefice Service last Sunday. A total of £1,056.50 was donated, rising to £1,178.50 with gift aid. Since Christian Aid is a member of DEC the funds raised qualify for matching funding from the UK government. Thank you for your generosity, - *the Painswick Valley Christian Aid Committee*.

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After a gap last year , the **Children's Society Box Collection time** is coming round again. I won't be holding the usual coffee and count morning this year but if you're able to **drop your box to me at: Merienda, Cranham, GL4 8JA - before 18 th March** - that would be fantastic. **Or drop it into the reception at The Croft School, Painswick** or give me a call and I can arrange to collect it. If you're interested in becoming a box holder, would like to make a donation, or would like me to collect your box - please give me a call. Victoria Soutar – 07900451248 [soutarfamily@live.co.uk](mailto:soutarfamily@live.co.uk)

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Thank you so much to all who contributed towards the 115kg of **donations for Stroud Foodbank**. Due to a rapid increase in demand over the last four months, Foodbank is now having to top up donations by buying in extra stock so you know every one of your gifts is needed. **Our next collection is on Wednesday 16 March, 10-12noon, in Stamages Lane Car Park and at The Stocks**. Suggested shopping list however any item will be gratefully received but please NO pasta or cereal. Tinned Vegetables, fruit juices, jam and spreads, sweet and savoury treats, toiletries, laundry liquids/powder We look forward to seeing you!

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**PAINSWICK MUSIC SOCIETY'S 76 th Season** comprises four wonderful concerts to look forward to, all taking place in St Mary's Church on Saturday afternoons.

**26 th MARCH** at 3pm - Carducci Quartet with Clare Hammond (piano). Programme: Schumann's Piano Quintet and works by Fanny Mendelssohn and Shostakovich

**9 th April** at 3pm - Jess Gillam (saxophone) and James Baillieu (piano). Programme includes works by Telemann, Poulenc and Piazzolla

**30 th April** at 4pm – Voces8. Programme: Choral Music Celebrating Regeneration

**14 th May** at 3pm - Iyad Sughayer (piano). Programme includes works by Haydn, Schubert, Schumann, Sibelius and Helen Ottaway

Memberships and tickets can be bought online at: [www.painswickmusicsoc.co.uk](http://www.painswickmusicsoc.co.uk) All ticket and membership enquiries to Edward Bowron: [tickets@painswickmusicsoc.co.uk](mailto:tickets@painswickmusicsoc.co.uk) or 07789 006006

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**A request from Eastwood Park:** With films being streamed being on the increase, there may be some of you who have DVDs and DVD players sitting around doing nothing. If this is the case for you, please would you consider donating to HMP Eastwood Park (where I work as a CofE Chaplain)? We are looking to start up a borrowing scheme for enhanced prisoners as a reward for good conduct. Please bear the following information in mind: No 18 certificates, No USB or Bluetooth devices. Thanks in anticipation for your help. Gill

Martin, Chaplain (Church of England), HMP Eastwood Park, Falfield, South Gloucestershire, GL12 8DB, 01454 382105.

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### Sources of help :

**Cranham Community Response Team:** *The initial contact for Cranham residents is:* [nigelrobincooper@gmail.com](mailto:nigelrobincooper@gmail.com) Tel: 07973 340227

**The Painswick Community Support initiative** provides community support for Painswick. If you need support, please contact 07956 203087

[painswickcommunity@gmail.com](mailto:painswickcommunity@gmail.com)

**Painswick Community Hub** Tea, coffee and home-made cakes in the Town Hall every Friday 9.30-11am. All are welcome. The volunteers would be very grateful for any offers of home-made cakes, biscuits or traybakes - Tel Delyth Allen on 07854262517 or Painswick Community Support on 07956203087 or email [painswickcommunity@gmail.com](mailto:painswickcommunity@gmail.com) .

### Weekday Worship

**Wednesday weekly:** 9.00am Benefice Prayer time via Zoom

*The weekly Zoom invitation will be sent out with Beacon Light each week. Lindsay Gardiner ( [lindsay.gardiner@icloud.com](mailto:lindsay.gardiner@icloud.com) ) Karen Riding ( [kriding07@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:kriding07@yahoo.co.uk) )*

**Thursday weekly :** 9.30am Morning Prayer via Zoom from Sheepscombe

*If you would like to join in or would like a copy of the service sheet please email Karen Riding [kriding07@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:kriding07@yahoo.co.uk).*

**1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month:** 10.30am Holy Communion at Richmond Village

**3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month:** 11.00am Holy Communion at Resthaven

### Services next Sunday 20th March - 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent

|         |                   |                |
|---------|-------------------|----------------|
| 9.30am  | Painswick         | Holy Communion |
| 11.00am | Edge Village Hall | Holy Communion |
| 6.30pm  | Cranham           | Evensong (BCP) |

### Contacts

Rector: Revd. Janet Turville

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Website: [www.beaconbenefice.org.uk](http://www.beaconbenefice.org.uk)

Information for the next Beacon Light Online to [ajpleach@gmail.com](mailto:ajpleach@gmail.com) by **Tuesday 5pm at the latest**, please.

### And Finally...

Seen in a pewsheet: "Next Sunday's preacher can be found hanging on the notice board in the porch. "