



# Update 8



December 2019

# Update

## St Peter's and St James' Monthly Newsletter

### Eco Church

On Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> September, at St James's Church Hereford, the Bishop of Hereford, Richard Frith, launched Eco Diocese. Responding to the threat of climate change, the devastation being caused to the poor across the globe and need for an urgent response, Bishop Richard committed our Diocese to play an active role in combating climate change. This aligns with other local initiatives: Herefordshire and Shropshire Councils have declared a Climate Change Emergency and the Herefordshire Green Network has launched 'The Great Collaboration', seeking to work alongside those councils to achieve practical actions on the ground.

Helen Stephens, Church Relations Manager of A Rocha, UK explained the accreditation scheme by which congregations could monitor their progress towards more sustainable living. Progress is accredited with the award of bronze, silver and gold status. There are five key areas on which Churches and Dioceses are assessed - **buildings, worship and teaching, lifestyle, community and global awareness** and churchyards. The approach challenges churches to act in respect of the energy they use, their worship, the wildlife in their churchyards and the ethics of their investments. Online resources are available to help find the right approach and, where churches have embraced the concept, there has been found to be huge support from the local community.

St Peter's and St James have registered with Arocha to work towards our Bronze Eco-Church status. A subgroup of the PCC ( Peter, Fiona, Don, Elaine and Tanya) is currently looking at this, collecting

and submitting data on the 5 topics above.

Please feel free to talk to us about the issues, look at the Arocha website (particularly with regard to offsetting your carbon footprint) and try these sites -

[www.ecochurcharocha.org.uk](http://www.ecochurcharocha.org.uk)

[www.climatestewards.org](http://www.climatestewards.org)

[www.footprintr.me](http://www.footprintr.me)

The Diocese has also registered towards becoming an Eco Diocese.

We hope to have more good news in the January Update about our progress.

### Christmas Loaf

Christmas can be a time of excess in all sorts of ways, Please consider the LOAF principles this year (that doesn't mean you have to have sandwiches for Christmas dinner !) but thoughtfully, buying Locally, Organically Animal friendly, and Fairly traded. Using sustainable gift-wrapping such as printed brown paper, or re-useable pretty fabrics, or hessian is preferable as the shiny / foil based wrapping paper cannot be recycled.

Try meal planning ahead, only buy what food you actually need, and don't be tempted by BOGOF, or bargains unless you really have use for it. Tons of edible food is wasted each year, much of it over the festive season.

A real Christmas tree is lovely, if you have one please check its from a sustainable source, and decide to plant it in a garden after, or donate it to a neighbour who has a shredder and can use it for garden mulch.

I pray we would all be able to celebrate Christmas, while making a joyful, radical and sustainable difference to the planet - our ongoing gift to Gods creation !

Tanya Brooks

### Diary Dates this Month

<b>Messy Church</b> Monday 9th	St James' 3.15pm
<b>Lunch for the Elderly</b> Tuesday 3rd	St Peter's 12 noon
<b>Listening Prayer</b> Tuesday 17th	St Peter's 7.30pm
<b>Deaf Drop in</b> Tuesdays 3rd, 10th, 17th Thursdays 5th, 12th, 19th	10am at St Peter's
<b>Wednesday Worship</b> Weds. 4th, 11th, 18th	10.30am
<b>Newstead Home Communion</b> Wednesday 18th	2.30pm
<b>Men's Breakfast</b> Thursday 5th	Ascaris 8am
<b>Prayer Hub</b> Thursdays 5th, 12th	11am @ St Peter's
<b>St Giles Christmas Carol Service</b> Friday 13th	2.30pm
<b>Community Coffee</b> Saturday 7th	St James' 10am
<b>Renew-Create</b> Saturday 21st	St James' 10am
<b>Access Youth Group</b> 8th 7-8.30pm 15th 7-8pm	Sunday evenings at Nomi & Elliot's at St Peter's

### December Update

Items for the January 2020 issue of Update to [maggie4spsj@gmail.com](mailto:maggie4spsj@gmail.com) by **Tuesday 17th December** (to allow time for editing and printing)

### Parish publications

Please be aware that, like the weekly news sheet, Update is published on the parish website.

Please only submit your name and contact details in articles for inclusion if you are happy for them to appear there.

### Alpha 2020 vision

"Alpha Taster Session"

7-9pm on Jan 8th at St James Church

## Rwanda Report

Sharon Elson, Paul Gill and Peter Stevens are safely back from their trip to Rwanda visiting our link parish at Rugendabari, checking out some of the Grassroots Rwanda projects and working with the Church in the Shyogwe Diocese. We were part of a team of ten, from Hereford, Bishop's Cleeve, Newton Abbot and Dorridge, led by two of the Grassroots Rwanda Trustees, Jim Stevens (made a Canon of Shyogwe while we were there!) and Chairman Peter Muir.

We met old friends and made many new ones. We were on the go from 7am to 7pm more or less every day, visiting projects making water filters and cookers, the growing of avocado and passion fruit saplings.

We looked at projects developing church buildings and classrooms

We visited Healthy Mums groups, Nursery and pre-school classes, Primary and Secondary schools and Vocational Training Schemes.

Paul was able to spend time with those working in prisons and Sharon and Peter had a lively session with Sunday school teachers. One of the most moving visits we had, which was not in the programme, was to a group of Genocide survivors and Genocide perpetrators, who were regularly meeting together, to gain a better understanding of each other and to help heal the wounds of a terrible past. The motto of their group was "Building Unity". It was a very moving and uplifting experience as we prayed together in a circle, holding hands.

We were able to spend a day with our friends at Rugendabari and returned to join in Sunday worship, with Sharon preaching, while Peter and Paul joined in the Sunday school of about 100 children! It was a normal Sunday service, only lasting about three and a half hours!



We bring back greetings from Bishop Jered, Archdeacons Jean Pierre and Eduard, and Pastor Silvestre.

We have much to share with you, but rather than try to cram something in before Christmas, we'll aim to do a full presentation early in the New Year. So watch this space!

In the meantime, please continue to pray for our friends and our Rwandan brothers and sisters in Christ.

Sharon Elson, Paul Gill and Peter Stevens



## Alpha

We're running an Alpha course - introducing what it means to follow Jesus - in January, beginning with a 'taster session' on 8th Jan at St James church, and we would love you to invite friends along who are interested in finding out more! This could be the means of God completely transforming someone's life, and friendly invitations are the best way of welcoming people. It's completely free, and includes a home-cooked meal, watching a video together and discussing it.

Who could you invite? (A6 invitation cards are available at the back of the churches)



**Alpha 'Prayer Cloud'** We're also looking for a group of people with a heart for prayer who can commit to praying before and during Alpha - because we are well aware that, if God does not work amongst us, all our efforts are utterly in vain. If you have a heart for this, a bit like the Prayer Chain, we shall send you through updates with prayer topics to pray at home or wherever you are. Please chat to or contact Elliot if you'd like to be part of this - [curate@spsj.org.uk](mailto:curate@spsj.org.uk)

**Alpha begins with a taster session on January 8th at St James church!**

**Who could you invite?**



## Buy 100 for the price of 1

This Christmas, why not choose a more meaningful eco alternative? Just £20 pays for over 100 tree saplings in Uganda. African Pastors' Fellowship working with Climate Stewards is planting hundreds of indigenous trees around churches. The community then benefits from shade, timber, fruit, better soils, water retention and

wildlife protection, which supports higher crop yields. Trees also protect people, buildings and soils from strong winds, heavy rainfall and scorching sunshine.

Please visit:

[www.africanpastors.org/jubilee-trees](http://www.africanpastors.org/jubilee-trees) to donate or put a labelled donation in the offering to APF 'Jubilee Trees'.

Remember, a tree is for life, not just for Christmas.

Gill and Steve Holder



## Add a Rwandan family to your Christmas present list!

Done your Christmas shopping yet?

No, me neither. But this year, please add the Water Filter Project funded by Grassroots Rwanda to your shopping list. We take our clean and drinkable water for granted as we turn on the tap or take a shower or bath. In many parts of Rwanda, even though the water may be piped, it is still not fit to drink without further treatment. £12.50 will provide a ceramic water filter for a family who could not otherwise afford one. These are made near Shyogwe using local clay and rice husks. The filters are clay pots, which when fired, create tiny holes, which filter out dangerous worms, parasites and other bugs and debris, making the



water drinkable, up to Government standards. Such simple technology, but so effective.

You could give in one of two ways. Either put whatever you can in an envelope, mark it "Rwanda Water Filters" and put it in the offering plate in Church. Alternatively, go to the "Just Giving" website at [www.justgiving.com](http://www.justgiving.com) put in "Water Filters" in the search box and it will take to "Grassroots Rwanda, Festive Water Filters" and simply donate!

Go on, do it now, and help a Rwandan family to stay healthy!

Peter Strevens

## Regular Events at SPSJ

### Why not try one you've not been to before?

#### Messy Church

Messy fun for the family with cooking, crafts, story, play, food and fun (did we mention fun?)! Monthly, every 2nd Monday, 3.15-5.30pm (term time only) at St James Church.

#### Lunch for the Elderly

This small group, many who are members of our parish and some who are not, meet together on the 1st Tuesday of every month in St Peter's at 12 noon for an excellent lunch provided by Burghill Golf Club, cost £ 5.50. If interested please contact Don and Ruth Langford on 01432264284.

#### Listening Prayer

Third Tuesday each month - 7.30pm at St Peter's

#### Deaf Drop-in

Weekly on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10am - 12 noon at St Peter's Church

#### Wednesday Worship

Wednesday mornings, 10.30am  
St James' Church

#### Men's Breakfast

First Thursday of every month. Men's Breakfast 8.00 a.m. Café Ascari on West Street. Come along for convivial chat & great breakfast.

#### Baby & Toddler Group

Our newest adventure! Thursday mornings weekly during term time, 8.45am - 10am in St James Church.

#### Prayer Hub

Weekly on Thursdays, 11am - 12 noon in the chapel at St Peter's

#### Community Coffee at St James

First Saturday each month, St James' Church 10am.

#### Renew Create

Every 3rd Saturday each month, St James Church, 10am-12noon. Come and meet friends old and new, enjoy a cuppa and chat, bring something you are crafting, learn new skills. All welcome.

#### Access

Sunday night youth group for years 7 and above - held weekly during term times at various locations, at various times - interested? - ask Rev'd Elliot for more information.



## Services in December

<b>1st</b>	<b>1st Sunday of Advent</b>
St James' Church	8.45am Holy Communion
St Peter's Church	10.00am The Way In Café Service
St James' Church	11.00am Informal Communion - <b>Sunday Club</b>
Freedom Church	6.30pm Special Service to end 7 weeks of prayer
<b>8th</b>	<b>2nd Sunday of Advent</b>
St James' Church	8.45am Holy Communion
St Peter's Church	10.00am Morning Worship
St James' Church	11.00am Informal Worship - <b>Children's Church</b>
<b>15th</b>	<b>3rd Sunday of Advent</b>
St James' Church	8.45am Holy Communion
St Peter's Church	10.00am Holy Communion
St James' Church	11.00am Informal Worship - <b>Children's Church</b>
<b>22nd</b>	<b>4th Sunday of Advent</b>
St James' Church	8.45am Holy Communion
St Peter's Church	10.00am Morning Worship
St James' Church	11.00am Family Nativity - <b>No Children's Church</b>
St James' Church	4.30pm Tea-Time Church
<b>24th</b>	<b>Christmas Eve</b>
St James' Church	4.30pm Community Carols
St Peter's Church	11.30pm Midnight Communion Service
<b>25th</b>	<b>Christmas Day</b>
St James' Church	8.45am Traditional Christmas Holy Communion
St Peter's Church	10.30am Communion service - <b>No Children's Ch.</b>
<b>29th</b>	<b>1st Sunday of Christmas</b>
St James' Church	8.45am Holy Communion
St James' Church	10.30am Joint Morning Worship - <b>No Child's Ch.</b>

## Contacts and more information

<b>Our Vicar:</b>	<b>Rev. Andy Morgan</b>	Tel: 01432 273 676 Email: vicar@spsj.org.uk
<b>Our Curate:</b>	<b>Rev. Elliot Swatridge</b>	Tel: 07957 724 965 Email: curate@spsj.org.uk
<b>Please note that Revd's Andy &amp; Elliot's day off is Friday</b>		
<b>Parish Office:</b>	St Peter's Church, St Peter's Square, Hereford, HR1 2DL Tel: 01432 275 373 Email: office@spsj.org.uk <b>Usual opening times Tuesdays and Thursdays 10am-12noon</b>	
<b>Website:</b>	www.spsj.org.uk	
<b>Facebook:</b>	www.facebook.com/ St Peters and St James Hereford	

## St Giles

The 2019 monthly services at St Giles will end with a

### Christmas Carol Service Friday 13th December 2.30pm

Because it is so bitterly cold in the chapel during the winter months, we will be closed until Easter, when God willing we will begin again with the 1st Friday of the month services.

## SPSJ Christmas card

By popular request, the Church Family Christmas Card will be a way to share your Christmas Greetings with other members of our worshipping community.

Brenda Lind will be at St Peter's and Di Hardwick will be at St James to take your greetings and £3.00 donation which this year will be going to Vennture.

## A Dads and Lads Breakfast @ St Peter's Church

8.30 - 10am 18th January 2020  
Join us and hear Kristian Diamond talk about his life as a Professional Footballer and enjoy a Continental Breakfast

If you would like to join us please contact Geoff Loynes  
abergfl@yahoo.com/07494270484

## An Evening of Carols and Comedy with Andy Kind

Saturday 14th December at 7pm  
St Peter's Church

**Tickets £3**  
available  
via the website  
or from Revd Andy

