



**Christchurch Forest of Dean  
St Mary the Virgin English Bicknor**

**Church and Community  
News and Events  
May 2024**



**50p**

# Richard Jackson

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## Church services for May 2024

### Christchurch Forest of Dean

5th May	11.00 am Sunday One	6.00 pm Holy Communion
12th May	11.00 am Holy Communion	6.00 pm Evensong
19th May	11.00 am Morning Worship	6.00 pm Evensong
26th May	11.00 am Holy Communion	6.00 pm Songs of Praise

### St Mary the Virgin, English Bicknor

5th May	9.30 am Holy Communion
12th May	9.30 am Matins
19th May	9.30 am Holy Communion
26th May	9.30 am Matins

Every Thursday there is the opportunity to take Communion at English Bicknor Village Hall– see page 23

# From the Vicarage:



**So, Revd Tony, who is ‘In’ and who is ‘Out’ as far as God is concerned?**

What a question!

Religion has been accused of, and responsible for, ‘excluding’ an awful lot of people through history. When the slave trade was at its height, people from the African Continent were seen as ‘less than human’, and therefore bought and sold as property. (The Church of England is currently trying to redress its historic sins by setting up a fund of over £100 million to, somehow, pay redress for its involvement in this abhorrent trade in history). Unmarried mothers were ‘taken away’, as were their children. Those whose life choices were so limited that they had to revert to criminal activity, prostitution or to living outside of acceptable society were ostracised.

In some cultures, religion placed people in social groups (casts) which limited their opportunities and status in society. Women have been treated as lesser beings than men; the sick and the lame have been seen as bearing a punishment from God, for their own sins or those of their Fathers. Those whose sexuality didn’t conform to the ‘religious norm’ (by that I mean people who were gay!) have been excluded and seen as something ‘broken and sinful’.

All in all, Religion has continually sent out a message (and I can only speak for Christianity here!) that the dividing line between those that are ‘In’ and those that are ‘Out’ is both clear, determined in our scriptures, and for some reason, important for the purity of the faith.

So, after 52 years since I first decided to 'Follow Jesus' I have come to these conclusions.

First, at the time I said 'Yes!' to following Jesus I was a racist, drug dealing little thug. I always wondered where I fitted, felt on the outside of everything and, therefore, acted up to be the Big Cheese and the hard man (Boy Really!). When I encountered Jesus, what I heard was something so simple: '*All have sinned and fallen short of the Glory of God*' (Romans 3:23). It seemed to me that meant me, plus the Vicar and the Archbishop of Canterbury ... anyone on the planet was in the same position! I then heard,

*<sup>6</sup> For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.'* John 3: 16

So, for me to start with ... we are all in the same boat and yet, God makes himself available to each and every one of us.

Very early on, I started to hear that there were some people I shouldn't mix with if I wanted to stay 'Pure'. But then, as I read the New Testament and looked at the life of Jesus, what did I see?

Jesus said some strange things:

**Mark 2:17**

*And when Jesus heard it, he said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners."*

**Luke 15:2**

*And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, "This man receives sinners and eats with them."*

**Luke 5:32**

*"I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance."*



### **Matthew 9:13**

*“Go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.’ For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.”*

So, on the basis, that we are all a bit broken and damaged (no matter what the issue), Jesus seems to have come to call ‘ME’ or ‘US’ into his way!  
So then I thought ... so can I differentiate between who is out and who is in ?

Well, no, not really ... simply because it’s not my job as a follower of Jesus to do any judging.

See what Jesus said:

### **Luke 6 37-42**

*“Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven.”*

### **Matthew 7-12**

*7 “Judge not, that you be not judged. <sup>2</sup> For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you. <sup>3</sup> Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? <sup>4</sup> Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when there is the log in your own eye? <sup>5</sup> You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye.*

John 8:

*7 When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, “Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.”*

James 4:11-12

*<sup>11</sup> Brothers and sisters, do not slander one another. Anyone who speaks against a brother or sister or judges them speaks against the law and judges it. When you judge the law, you are not keeping it, but sitting in judgment on it. <sup>12</sup> There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the one who is able to save and destroy. But you—who are you to judge your neighbour?*

A lot of bible stuff in there, but here is the crux!

It is not for us to judge. We are all ‘below par on the Holy front’.

I hold to one thing that St Paul said in his letter to the Romans:



*Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love? Does it mean He no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death? ... No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us. And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow — not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. No power in the sky above or in the earth below — indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:35, 37-39)*



Our God, Our Father, who sent Jesus to spend his time with fishermen, tax collectors, prostitutes, lepers and those excluded from society, simply wants each of us to be all that he created us to be. If we fail or fall, he still accepts us; if we don't fit the social norm, he still accepts us. If we challenge the current perceived perceptions, he still loves and encourages us.

52 years ago, I discovered that God loved me! No matter what I'd done, no matter where I'd been, no matter who I was. His love was unshakable.

### **So, 'who is in and who is out?'**

If anyone wants to know how God will judge us, the judgement is not based on race, social status, sexuality, political preference or any other criteria that we might think we can judge people for.

It seems to me it is based on the parable of the sheep and the goats that Jesus shared in *The Gospel of Matthew. Chapter 25 v 31 - 46.*

God is the only one who can make that call. Until then, I am called to accept and encourage everyone, whoever they are, whatever their condition in life, whatever their history or background. NO EXCEPTIONS!

Blessings

Tony (*The nearly 'ex. Rector'!*)

## Prayers for May

Loving Lord, we thank you for this beautiful place, help us to learn to look after it and all your creation. Help us to share your bounty fairly and to care for our brothers and sisters throughout the world. We thank you for our families, friends and neighbours. Teach us to love one another and grow in faith through the knowledge of your love for us, Amen.

Lord, inspire our thoughts and colour our words with your love.

Make our lives bright with laughter, our speech gentle, our thinking warm, our actions kind.

May all we suffer or enjoy in the spectrum of our days mellow and blend in peace and love and praise. Amen.

Frank Topping.

Loving Lord, you sent your Son Jesus into the world to teach us how to love, to be loved and to show us how to love one another. Help us to walk in his wonderful footsteps. Give us the courage to live a life in love for us all. Amen.

Love of God

We implore thee, by the memory of thy cross's hallowed and most bitter anguish,  
make us fear thee and love thee, O Christ.

Bridget 453-523.

Show me thy ways, O Lord; teach me thy paths.

Lead me in thy truth, and teach me: for thou art the God of my salvation; on thee do I wait all day.

Remember, O Lord, thy tender mercies and thy loving-kindnesses; for they have been ever of old.

Remember not the sins of my youth, nor my transgressions: according to thy mercy; remember thou me for thy goodness' sake, O Lord.

Psalm 25 verses 4-7



Teach me your ways, O Lord God,  
And I will walk in your truth;  
Give me a totally undivided heart;  
Cleanse me, Lord, I pray;  
Remove from me all that is standing in the way of your love.  
Eugene Greco.

Jesus, Friend of little children,  
Be a friend to me;  
Take my hand, and ever keep me  
Close to thee.  
Walther J. Mathams.

To see a World in a grain of sand,  
And Heaven in a wild flower,  
Hold infinity in the palm of your hand,  
And eternity in an hour.  
William Blake.

+++++



**From the Parish Records**

**Hugh Barkley** age 88

Funeral on  
Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2024  
at the  
Forest of Dean Crematorium

**Joan Vivien O'Connell 77**  
Service and committal at  
Forest of Dean Crematorium  
11th April 2024



## Benefice Retreat

**Monday 13th May—Wednesday 15th May  
at Llangasty**



This lovely retreat house is situated on the shores of Llangorse lake, near Crickhowell, about an hour's drive from Coleford. It's a great place for us to take time out for quiet reflection and worship.

Tony is leading our retreat this year; we're making the most of him before he retires!

We still have a few places if you would like to stay; there are single and double rooms available.

You are also welcome to join us just for the day on Tuesday 14th. It may be that you haven't experienced a retreat before and would like to come.

We will all meet for coffee at 10am and the day will end after the 6pm evening meal.

If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Carol Turley on 07840786179.

There is more information on the house on their website.

[www.llangasty.com](http://www.llangasty.com)

### Save the Date

Disney is coming to Christchurch on **Saturday and Sunday June 15th and 16th June**

To celebrate 100 years of Disney Studios there will be a Flower Festival, Craft Fair and Concert at Christchurch Forest of Dean.



## English Bicknor Women's Institute

On a wet and not particularly springlike evening members were taken on a ride along the Amalfi coast with Pamela Holland. Pamela's enthusiasm for everything Italian is infectious and she has many interesting insights to share. For ladies who have been fortunate enough to visit this beautiful area memories were rekindled. For others it was a case of "here's one for the bucket list!"

Our walking group is hoping for sunshine as we head over to Gorsley to walk and then enjoy a lunch provided by members of Gorsley WI. We have continued to enjoy more local walks and are becoming adept at traversing some very muddy terrain.

On June 17th we will be hosting a special meeting from 2pm until 5pm at English Bicknor Village Hall. Frances Carlaw will be sharing her passion for pearls, explaining about different types of pearls, and will have many different pearl items for sale. She has visited us before and has a fascinating story to tell. There is no obligation to make a purchase but you may well be tempted. This meeting is open to anyone who would like to attend and refreshments will be available. So, spread the word and we look forward to welcoming you, hopefully on a lovely summer's day.

Two teams from English Bicknor took part in the first round of the GFWI quiz. Sadly neither team progressed to the next round but all the ladies had an enjoyable evening.

Early in May we will be engaging in another skittles match against Coalway Ladies. This is always good fun. The ability to score highly never seems that important but any strikes are enthusiastically applauded.

We have a theatre trip in June to Malvern to see The Kite Runner and plans afoot for some other interesting visits in the near future. As ever there is plenty going on. We have a strong membership but are still able to accommodate more ladies. Please contact our secretary Sue Yemm on 07990 853710 should you require further information.

## **Christchurch Clock**

You will have noted recently that our clock at Christchurch has been stopped.

Just to keep everyone in the picture, it has been decided by the Church PCC that the internal access to the clock is very awkward and a number of those people who have willingly wound the clock and kept it functioning for a considerable time no longer feel safe to continue.

The access has been surveyed to see if a safer solution into the attic space could be achieved but there is no suitable alternative.

Therefore has been decided that we will purchase a self-winding mechanism for the clock to provide a much safer outcome.

We trust we will be able to restore the clock to fully operational status as soon as possible.

Meanwhile, we thank all those who have helped in winding and keeping the clock functioning over many years and also those who have shown a willingness to do so in the future.

With grateful thanks for your understanding and best wishes to you all.

Maggie Walters  
Secretary  
Friends of Christchurch

## **Christchurch Kitchen update**

The kitchen plan has passed its first hurdle.

Stainless steel units have been accepted as suitable for our purposes and we can now go on with the next phase. We have to submit a full faculty application for permission to change the present kitchen. It will seem as if nothing is happening for a while, but there will be a lot going on in the background. Paperwork may not be the most exciting aspect of this project but once it is all in place we should be able to move swiftly.

Fund raising is next. Do let me know if you have a good idea for raising quite a lot of money!

Judith Brickwood

07708633089

## **BICKNOR COMMUNITY ORCHARD**

At last year's Hall AGM, a community orchard, at the far bottom of the Playing Field on rough ground, was requested by parishioners. Permission from the Parish Council, as owners, has now been obtained.

The Village Hall is unable to fund this project but should anyone wish to donate a Miniature Fruit Tree, maybe to mark an occasion or in Memory of a loved one, then please contact :-

Sharon Shelbourn email [sharonshelb@msn.com](mailto:sharonshelb@msn.com) Tel 01594 862556

## English Bicknor Village Hall News

The village hall is planning to create a Peoples Orchard at the far end of the playing fields. If anyone wishes to donate a tree, please contact the secretary John Entwistle on 07708626825.

Recent events have raised money for the hall and local charities. The recent carvery meal raised £650 and the Sea Shanty Singers evening raised £500. The recent Wedding Fair raised £72 for the Great Oaks Hospice.

This year is the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the village hall and 1930s events are being planned. In May, make a 1930s Scarecrow for the village green. The Fete on Saturday the 29<sup>th</sup> of June will have 1930s themed events. There will be an afternoon of music on Sunday the 21<sup>st</sup> July. In early August, the Beefy Boys Burger van will serve food and games will take place on the playing field. The date is to be confirmed. In October, a Bicknor's Got Talent show is being planned.

There is now enough funding to make an improvement to the play area by adding a basket swing.

The village hall is in contact with the FOD District Council to gain additional paper and cardboard recycling bins.

The village hall is looking for additional casual bar staff. A good rate of pay is offered.

If you are interested, please contact the secretary John Entwistle on 07708626825.

## Coleford Area Walking Festival



Monday afternoon and it's one of my two weekly sessions in the Coleford Tourist Information Centre and on a quiet afternoon we've been given the task of cutting out printed copies of boots, the walking sort, which are going to be used to promote the Coleford Area Walking Festival.

The walks take place from **Saturday 11th May to Sunday 19th May**.

There are short walks, long strenuous walks, family dinosaur walk, real ale trail walk and some are dog friendly. There are 3 Free walks, one of which is an accessible walk at Mallards Pike. All other walks are £5.00 per person, if you want to do several walks then there is the option to buy a Festival Freedom Pass for £20.00 which allows you to attend as many walks as you wish. All walks need to be **pre-booked** and this can be done in person in Coleford TIC or via the official website at: [www.colefordareawalkingfestival.co.uk](http://www.colefordareawalkingfestival.co.uk) where more detailed information is given on each walk, for example Walk 2 on Saturday 11th May is ...

**A Nature and Foraging Family Walk – 2.5miles approx – Easy – 10:00 – No Dogs** Immerse yourself in the magical world of trees, plants, herbs and fungi during our gentle foraging walk. Learn to identify a wide array of common plants, mushrooms and wild edibles. Discover their numerous benefits, their medicinal properties and their abundant folk-lore uses whilst exploring hidden hedgerows and strolling through verdant meadows.

Meet at Angus Buchanan Rec. Car Park GR SO569107;

What3Words: nosedive.premises.decorated

or grab a leaflet from the TIC. These walks usually prove very popular and are led by local people with lots of local knowledge so book early... and enjoy.



## May Quiz answers on p28

1. Bruce Springsteen was born in which decade?
2. How many players make up an Irish Hurling team?
3. Oberon and Titania were characters in which Shakespeare play?
4. Downton Abbey was filmed at which Hampshire stately home?
5. From what part of a pig is "Brawn" made?
6. In technology, what does CPU stand for?
7. Who did Lady Caroline Lamb describe as being "mad, bad and dangerous to know"?
8. Which fictional detective lived in Cabot Cove?
9. What flavour is the traditional Greek aperitif Ouzo?
10. What is the name given to a person who believes there is no God?
11. What is the official currency of Japan?
12. Which pop group, formed in 1958, consisted of brothers Barry, Robin and Maurice Gibb?
13. Who was the first woman to be awarded the Booker prize on two occasions?
14. Where would you find a Tattersalls Ring?
15. Which chocolate was advertised using the slogan, "Why have cotton when you can have silk"?
16. Who replaced Theresa May as the UK Prime Minister?
17. Who wrote the book "Charlotte's Web"?
18. What breed of dog appears on the cover of Blur's "Parklife" album?
19. If you had a posh accent which fruit was said to be in your mouth?
20. By what common name is the disease "Varicella" known?

## **Home cured bacon** by Gene Marshall

In the last magazine I read “What’s the use of a pig” with interest and was reminded of the flitch of bacon that, in my childhood, was hung, draped in muslin, on the scullery wall every year.

We did not have our own pig but my dad bought a flitch from his sister who raised pigs and cured the bacon. However there was a slight problem. Dad was not tall enough to slip the strong loop of string over the hook. He solved this by getting the flitch on his back with Mum behind, taking some of the weight. He would climb on to a kitchen chair and be poised to slip the loop over the hook when he would feel Mum shaking with suppressed laughter and collapse himself. Several abortive attempts later - success! I looked forward to this family fun every year.

However, when I was five, Aunt Kate decided she would cure the bacon at our house. The pig bench was carried from the shed to the pavement outside the back door. It was much wider than a normal bench with a groove near the edge all the way round. Aunt Kate arrived and I was delighted to be allowed to assist. She patiently explained the process as, all morning, we rubbed in salt and some saltpeter. I don’t think so much of the latter was used. I remember clearly that, near the end of the process, she sent me in the house to fetch pepper to sprinkle, as a deterrent to flies, where the bones in the shoulder and ham came near the surface.

I have no memory of where the flitch was put to complete the curing process. I think it would have remained on the bench and perhaps put in the brick built shed in the garden. It would be interesting to know how long it took.

## The Garden Battle

Last year I took on the responsibility for a neglected garden. It had been much loved in the past but age and infirmity meant that the former owner had not pruned shrubs or trees, thinned out plants nor even mown the grass for some years. The grass was easily dealt with thanks to a delightful chap who comes once a fortnight or so with an enormous and noisy mower. The shrubs are gradually being tamed but the fruit trees are all growing into each other and will probably need a specialist to sort them out.

I decided that, living on the edge of the Forest, a cottage garden would be the design to go for. Much as I love the drifts of single colour which Gertrude Jekyll and others made so popular, that sort of exuberant expanse of colour works best in a much larger border than I have and I do like the muddle of plants that a cottage garden can support.

And vegetables. The cabbage family in particular provide a structure that works well threaded through the flowers. Nasturtiums look good against the dark green of kale and the occasional glimmer of the white curds of a cauliflower provides an unexpected contrast to penstemons. I planted 18 members of the cabbage family. Six beautiful purple kale, six green kale and six sprouting broccoli. I dotted them through where the geranium are pushing out their leaves and in amongst the herb patch by the kitchen door. One, just one, plant remains. And the two new delphinium, planted at the same time, have vanished.

I say vanished. The culprit is known, they did not bother to hide their shiny, silvery trail. Slugs. I can see no good reasons for a slug. Except, perhaps as bird food.

We are told that gardening is a relaxing hobby, much lauded for the peace and tranquility working in a garden can bring to busy 21<sup>st</sup> century lives.

Not so in my garden. There is a battle going on. Me v The Slug.

## English Bicknor Primary School

Every CofE school in England receives two forms of inspection: Ofsted (along with all schools) and also SIAMS ( Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools).

The purpose of the SIAMS oversight is to examine how the school's Christian vision, curriculum and culture supports all children (and staff) to flourish. As a school, the school leaders, staff and all the pupils, actively live out their commitment to maintaining a loving learning environment, where everyone benefits. Everyone flourishes in a loving, caring community – and this is not at the expense of high standards. There is a place for both, as both these inspections can tell us. The staff work hard to ensure that the school is 'inspection ready' by weaving good practice into the every day.

Of course there is also time for visits such as this.....

English Bicknor Primary School were lucky enough to be invited to visit Dryslade Farm in English Bicknor this spring as part of a project with LEAF Education (Linking Environment and Farming) to learn about farming, become more conscious consumers and think about how to grow, eat and live more sustainably.

Hosted by Phil and Daphne of Dryslade Farm, with support from Faye Edwards from LEAF Education, the children were treated to an activity-packed day in the farmyard and woodland of the Gwilliams' farm.

The day was made even more memorable by the arrival of six calves within the 24 hours preceding the visit.

On their return to school Oak Class wrote this delightful letter of thanks.

Dear Farmer Phil and Daphne,

We are very thankful to have had the opportunity to visit your farm.

Seeing Joyce milked was a wonderful experience and we found it interesting how you only need one milking cow to be able to have plenty of milk. The calves were adorable and it was also interesting to see how energetic they were after only being alive for twenty-four hours. We found it fascinating that cows grow so fast and could easily observe the differences between the new calves, the one-year olds and the two-year olds. We loved hearing about the different names you give to your calves and looking at how different each breed was.

The tractor ride to the woods was fun. Having time to reflect outdoors amongst the trees really helped us to calm down and the bird sounds were lovely to listen to. We enjoyed building the birds' nests and measuring the trees, particularly when we found ones the same age as us.

Making butter from cream was really hard but enjoyable at the same time. Everyone became very competitive and the group that made the butter first were over the moon.

We all really enjoyed the trip.

With many thanks for this amazing experience,  
from Oak Class at English Bicknor Primary School



Oak Class enjoying a day on the farm





Lunch and conversation at Christchurch during the Saturday Lent Lunches .



## Lent lunches 2024

This year our Lent lunches again proved popular, with an average of 30 people each Saturday with many 'regulars' coming every week!

We did have one disappointing 'blip' when we were inconveniently snowed out on the third Saturday!

Nevertheless, over 5 Saturdays and with generous donations, we raised just over £1,000 which is an amazing amount of money in return for very simple lunches.

This money will be split evenly between The Children's Opportunity Centre in Coleford and Great Oaks Hospice.

None of these lunches would be possible without the generosity and expertise of 'The Team' (Sally, Sue B, Maggie, Carol, Kay, Ann H, Agnes, Jeanne, Barbara D, and Midge) who provided delicious soups, and cakes week after week and served at tables. Thanks also to Evie (Sally's Granddaughter) who washed up each week apart from one week when Chris H manfully covered for her!!!!

A real sense of community pulling together.

Thank you all so much. Helen

### Shakespearean insults

God made him, and therefore let him pass for a man

*The Merchant of Venice act 1 sc 2*

His wit's as thick as a Tewkesbury mustard." *Henry IV Part 2 (Act 2, Scene 4*

More of your conversation would infect my brain."

*Coriolanus (Act 2, Scene 1)*

# Romans in the Forest of Dean

With Jon Hoyle

Gloucester County archaeologist and author of  
*The Hidden Landscapes of the Forest of Dean*

continues his walk through our past in his series of talks to the Group.



The Lydney Park Roman mosaic – sea monsters

## Thursday 9 May

7.30pm, English Bicknor Village Hall

**Entry: £4, FREE for EBLHG members – join on the door**

[www.englishbicknorlhg.co.uk](http://www.englishbicknorlhg.co.uk)

Claire Scales [info@rocklodge.co.uk](mailto:info@rocklodge.co.uk) 01600 773220

**ENGLISH BICKNOR LOCAL HISTORY GROUP**

## ENGLISH BICKNOR LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

### Goodrich Castle: A History

Talk by Alex Knight

Meeting of 14 March 2024

Before there was a castle, there was possibly an Iron Age hillfort on the site (aerial photos show possible early earthworks). There are some Roman tiles built into one of the castle walls – quite probably there was a Roman period building here after the fort. The Llandaff Charters then refer to Constantine's church being built at Garth Benni- so was an early Medieval monastery next on the site? The first reference to a castle is around 1100, and as the land was given by William the Conqueror to the Anglo-Saxon Godric around 1087 we can be pretty sure it was not built by a Norman. (Although it is not referred to in Domesday, that does not mean it was not there earlier – Hereford had only one milkmaid in 1086 according to the record, which is inconceivable!).

The site is geographically important; with river crossings at Flaynesford, Walford (the name comes from Welshman's Ford) and the Goodrich ferry. First would have been an earth ringwork.

Godric's daughter – Hwice – married William fitzBaderon of Monmouth, who added the Castle to all his other estates then passed it to his son. Around this time the stone keep was constructed as the Welsh needed suppressing. The keep is 16m tall with an earth embankment and wooden steps up to the keep door on the second floor. All this earth was later spread around the courtyard, giving the height change we see today.

Goodrich was an important spot during The Anarchy (the civil war that followed the drowning of Henry I's heir and saw years of fighting between Empress Matilda and Stephen of Blois).

The Castle was generally passed down the female line as many heirs were lost. Male holders included 'Strongbow' in 1148. When Isabella married rich and powerful William Marshall he took on ownership. He was known as 'the perfect knight' and built lots of castles as well as rebuilding Chepstow and was Constable of St Briavels. It is likely he built the outer stone walls, of which only an obvious rough section with two arrow slits between the chapel and garderobe remains. He had five sons, but all died. His granddaughter inherited and married Henry III's half-brother – the Earl of Pembroke – who built most of what we see today as a status symbol and home between around 1260 and 1290.

Stone came from what is now the surrounding ditch, so underpinning was required. Timber came from the Forest of Dean by royal grant. Royal workmen were brought in to help with the build, and the similarities of the barbican to the Tower of London indicates this is one of the areas they worked on. There is some questionable workmanship, such as the arrow slits facing each other in the entrance!

In the 1500s the Talbots upgraded, with piped water (before this the 54m well was the water source) and some roofline changes (which left some fireplaces in odd places halfway up walls). When Talbot became Earl of Shrewsbury the castle was neglected and in 1619 the Crown sold it to the Earls of Kent.

Despite being a Border castle, little action was seen until the Civil War. It was used as a Royalist base for raids, with 60-80 horses and infantry stationed there. Colonel March took the Castle with canon, mortars and around 500 men. They cut off the water supply and had Roaring Meg made locally as the walls were too thick for the canon to make much impact. Roaring Meg fired 200lb exploding shells over the walls. It took two months of siege before surrender.

In 1647 Parliament ordered that Goodrich Castle be made unusable. The tenant (who had just invested in a major refurbishment) was responsible for this.

The picturesque ruin then became a highlight of The Wye Tour and has been a tourist site ever since.

Chair: Claire Scales [info@rocklodge.co.uk](mailto:info@rocklodge.co.uk) 01600 773220

Becca 07564 062416 Ann 01594 861243 [www.englishbicknorlhg.co.uk](http://www.englishbicknorlhg.co.uk)

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*"Then it struck me—nobody originally on the Paleo Diet lived past 35."*



## **Calling all Craft People**

Do you paint? Pot? Make Jewelry? Knit? Sew? Make Jam? Grow plants? Make things in wood? Make cards?

A Craft Fair is planned as part of the Flower Festival at  
Christchurch, Forest of Dean

**Saturday June 15<sup>th</sup> 2024 from 10am –4pm**

The theme of the Flower Festival is 100 years of Disney

To book a table or for further information please contact  
Sally on 0778884173

## **From English Bicknor Parish Council**

English Bicknor Parish Council continues to pursue the repair of various minor and local road problems and the urgent replacement of the local post box.

We can also report that we have successfully installed a community speeding camera system at Hillersland, which has already been used to report offenders.

Repairs to the broken flagpole at Symonds Yat are also planned.

**Quiz answers**

- |                                     |                                      |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. <i>1940's (23rd Sept 1949)</i>   | 10. <i>An atheist.</i>               |
| 2. <i>15</i>                        | 11. <i>Japanese Yen.</i>             |
| 3. <i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i> | 12. <i>The Bee Gees.</i>             |
| 4. <i>Highclere Castle.</i>         | 13. <i>Hilary Mantell.</i>           |
| 5. <i>Head.</i>                     | 14. <i>On a horse racing course.</i> |
| 6. <i>Central Processing Unit.</i>  | 15. <i>Galaxy.</i>                   |
| 7. <i>Lord Byron.</i>               | 16. <i>Boris Johnson.</i>            |
| 8. <i>Jessica Fletcher.</i>         | 17. <i>E B White.</i>                |
| 9. <i>Aniseed.</i>                  | 18. <i>Greyhounds.</i>               |
|                                     | 19. <i>A plum.</i>                   |
|                                     | 20. <i>Chickenpox.</i>               |

The **Buddy Bag Foundation** was set up in 2015 to help make a difference to children entering emergency care. It provides a backpack containing essential items including toiletries, pajamas and underwear, a book and teddy bear.

Please could you knit a teddy for a Buddy Bag?

Patterns are on the noticeboard in the porch at

Christchurch.

If you need wool please let me know.

Thank you

Sue Boulter 01594 810647

# Hot Pot Pottery - Back Open!

## Well We Did It!

We have finally finished our renovation at Eastbach Farmhouse and we **re-opened** the pottery on Good Friday.

We have new ideas on pottery classes and experiences for you - including a new Half Day Throwing workshop alongside our One Day Throwing Workshop, a Pizza, Pasta or Afternoon Tea Pottery Experience, Themed Pottery Painting and our ever popular Pottery Trial Classes now slightly longer and including refreshments.

We also have a summer and autumn 3 day pottery retreat planned and an 8 week longer course sometime in the autumn on a Monday.

All information on all our classes & activities is at: <https://hotpotpottery.co.uk/classes-activities/>

We have a super-duper new On-Line Booking System at: <https://hotpotpottery.co.uk/book-now/>

And we have a lovely fully renovated pottery studio to welcome you to in an idyllic situation and we are enjoying welcoming locals and holiday makers back into the studio. There is also a pottery display area/shop if you were looking for a present for a friend and we can do vouchers as well which make perfect presents! We hope to see you here soon.

Any questions - please contact either Katie or Charles on 07974 983908 or 01594 837943 or you can email: [info@hotpotpottery.co.uk](mailto:info@hotpotpottery.co.uk).

Our new address is: Eastbach Farmhouse, Eastbach, Near English Bicknor, GL16 7EU. Although - don't trust the postcode as it takes you to a different farm!

Full directions are at: <https://hotpotpottery.co.uk/how-to-find-us/>

Follow us on Social Media for all our Latest News and Reviews:

<https://www.facebook.com/hotpotpottery>

<https://twitter.com/HotPotPottery>



## **An easy solution**

We are hearing more and more of young people being killed or seriously injured on our roads. We also hear the politicians discussing how the numbers can be reduced by educating the young.

I am afraid education is not the answer.

Young people all know the dangers and what they should or should not be doing, but once behind the wheel and their mates are in the car, the feeling that "it only happens to other people" takes over. They are driving small but tuned up cars, or cars that come with power as standard. And they lack experience.

There is an easy solution that I am sure would dramatically reduce road deaths among the young. The Government set the rules on who can and can't drive certain vehicles. I am now over 70 and not allowed to drive certain large and heavy vehicles that I have been driving for years, so if they can legislate for older people, why can they not legislate for the young?

There should be a limit to both the brake horse power ( BHP) and CC, the size of the engine. If the rules were that anyone under 21 or anyone who has passed his /her test within 24 months if over 21, cannot drive any vehicle, except with an instructor, over, say , 75 BHP and 1,000 ccs, whichever is the highest , accidents would reduce. And in addition no more than 1 passenger allowed in the vehicle. The potential speed and acceleration of the vehicle would be dramatically reduced.

The old Morris Minors and Minis of the 60s and 70s had less than 50 BHP, and were usually 850-1,000 CCs, and were perfectly capable of travelling between 60 and 70 when required.

Some modern 1000 CC cars now are capable of very fast acceleration and can reach well over 100 miles an hour. It should be impossible for anyone with less than 2 years driving experience to get insurance, regardless of their age, on any car over the 75BHP or 1,000ccs and never for anyone 17 to 21 years.

There could be exceptions for Police drivers, Ambulance drivers, firemen, however, a further course should be required and the exception should be limited to when they are working. Company cars could come under the same regulations, and an advanced test taken in order to drive a company vehicle, with insurance being paid for by the company but again, the vehicle should only be used for work, and not for private use.

This may inconvenience a few; however, it would save many, many lives. If the Government feel that at 70 you should not drive certain vehicles unless a doctor says you are fit to do so, then I am sure a 17 to 21 year old behind the wheel of a powerful car poses a far greater threat than an experienced driver driving a small lorry and restrictions should apply.

A car manufacturer could make a lot of money building the “new driver” car. A small car, that comes within the levels of engine size and BHP allowed for new drivers that is reasonable to insure. These cars would be required for all new drivers, so sales would be high. The manufacturer could make them look cool or “sick” in teenage lingo.

I am available to stand as the next Transport Secretary if required.

The Gom

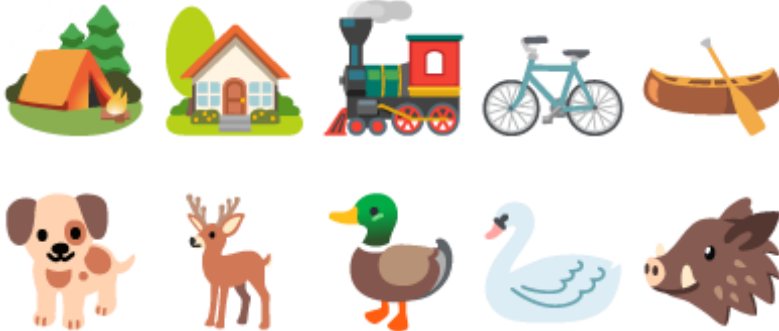
## Coleford Tourist Information Center Needs you

Do you enjoy meeting people ?  
Do you have 3 hours a week to spare ?  
Could you volunteer at **Coleford Tourist Information Centre**?

We are a friendly, welcoming group of people who volunteer a few hours each week to help visitors (and local people) find their way around the Forest and Wye Valley area. We are always looking for new volunteers so please pop into the "shop" for a chat or contact via email- [info@colefordtown.net](mailto:info@colefordtown.net)

Are you looking for advice, information, books, maps of the area or a lovely locally-made souvenir? Then you'll be happy to know that the Coleford Tourist Information Centre reopened on Saturday 10th February. The team of knowledgeable volunteers are always happy to help. The opening hours until Easter are 10am to 3pm, Monday to Saturday.

Just some of the things we were asked about last season!



#visitdeanwye #TIC #TouristInformation  
#TouristInformationCentre

## Thursday Communion at 11.00 in English Bicknor Village Hall

Our Thursday Communion 'regulars' would like to extend a warm welcome to anyone who might appreciate some quiet space in a busy week.

Whilst worship in Church is wonderful, it is equally possible to experience time with Jesus Christ in our beautiful and accessible Village Hall

Our service of Holy Communion is short and reflective with no obligation for individuals to take a leading role. You can come and just 'Be'.

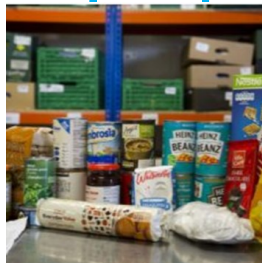
Following our service there is time to enjoy each other's company relaxing with light refreshments.

For further information Contact Helen on 01594 860205



### The Food Bank are short of:

Pasta  
Tomatoes  
Teabags  
Jam  
Sponge puddings  
Rice Puddings  
Tinned fruit  
Washing up liquid  
Washing powder/  
liquid



### DROP OFF POINTS ARE:

Coleford Coop  
Coleford Lidl  
Coleford Tesco Express  
Coleford Town Council Offices  
Coleford Main Place  
Eskimart Coleway  
Cinderford Tesco  
Cinderford Library  
Cinderford Greenhill Coffee  
Cinderford Applegreen petrol  
Lydney Tesco  
Lydney Lidl  
Lydney Library  
Lydney Town Council  
Ruardean Crooked End Farm  
Drybrook Vales Butchers  
Micheldean Kevins Butchers

## **Magazine Subscription**

**Very many thanks to those of you who have already paid**

This is just a gentle reminder that the annual subscription for home delivered magazines is now due.

**We are keeping the cover price the same as last year at  
£5 for the year.**

**Please pay your distributor. Or direct to Jeff. Or by bank transfer.  
There is also a tin in each church if that is more convenient to you  
or you like to collect your magazine yourself from the church.**

**Bank details are**

**Christchurch and English Bicknor Magazine**

**Sort Code: 30-95-29 Account: 01151465**

## **Friends of Christchurch FoD**

Coffee Morning

May 18th

Excellent coffee, brilliant cakes and great conversation.

Meet old friends and make new ones.

Everyone welcome.

# Play Mornings at Christchurch

Most Thursday mornings in term time

In the church at Christchurch

9:30am\* - 11:30am

For Under 5s with supervising adult(s)

Soft play equipment, bouncy castle, climbing frame

Toys, books & puzzles

Carpeted space with room for little ones to use their  
energy

Fairtrade coffee/tea for the adults

*\*Doors open earlier so adults dropping older siblings at  
school can come straight to Play Mornings.*

For more information contact:

Barbara: 01594 837270

email: [PlayAtCC@gmail.com](mailto:PlayAtCC@gmail.com)

# *3 COURSE SPRING LUNCH*

*Formally known as POP in LUNCH*

*SATURDAY 11th MAY*

*12pm onwards*

*RAFFLE*

*BAR*

**English Bicknor Village**

**Adults £15    Children £7**

Proceeds to F.O.S.M





## Whist drive



The Hut, Berryhill, £2 entry  
Second Friday of every month  
7pm start







supporting



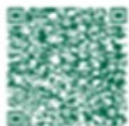
Play today  
and support our cause!

- Make a difference to the community and support our cause
- Sign-up for only £1 a week!
- You get the chance to win cash prizes up to £25,000 every week!
- We get 50p from every £1 ticket and a further 10p goes to other good causes
- Join your community in making where we live an even better place

To start supporting, visit:

[www.ForestLottery.co.uk](http://www.ForestLottery.co.uk)

and search for: English Bicknor CofE



Supporters must be 16 years of age or older



## Free mentoring service for girls and young women

Girls and young women in Gloucestershire and South Gloucestershire can now benefit from an innovative new mentoring initiative: Gloucestershire Mentoring Programme.

This free service is being offered by a collaboration of seven trusted organisations and is available for 11–25-year-olds. Specifically, those whose life circumstances suggest they're at risk of becoming involved in crime. And in some circumstances, those already linked to criminal activity.

Gloucestershire Mentoring Programme is hosted by The Door and funded by CHK Foundation, and offers young 'at risk' females the chance to form a long-lasting relationship with a trained volunteer mentor. Having a relationship with a trusted, independent adult is something that's often missing in the lives of young people and can be life-changing. It helps them build resilience and grow in confidence, and, over time, empowers them to have a more positive future.

If you know a young person who might benefit from the support the Programme offers (or you are that young person), you can visit [gloucestershirementoringprogramme.co.uk](http://gloucestershirementoringprogramme.co.uk) to apply.

If you have a heart for understanding and supporting young people, a little spare time and would like to become one of the Programme's volunteer mentors, the providers would love to hear from you. You can contact any of them directly or via the Programme website, which will help you find the one operating closest to you. No experience is required and full training will be provided.

The seven delivery organisations collaborating to provide this service are: 1625IP; Breathe; Nelson Trust; Thames Valley Partnership; The Door; WAM Youth; and Young Gloucestershire. Follow the Programme on [social media](#) and help them spread the word.

For general enquiries, email [info@gloucestershirementoringprogramme.co.uk](mailto:info@gloucestershirementoringprogramme.co.uk) or call 01453 756745.

# **LYDCARE**

## **PRACTICAL HELP FOR THOSE IN NEED**

### **COMMUNITY TRANSPORT – Lydbrook and surrounding villages**

**Our drivers provide a superb personal “ door to door” service , they are available to take you to and from your appointments , hospital , doctor or local activities. They are happy to wait until you are ready to return home .**

**Standard mileage charge applies .**

**Contact -01594 544414.**

### **WELLBEING AND BENEFITS ADVICE – across the Forest of Dean**

**Having difficulty filling in those forms ?**

**Are you getting the benefits you are entitled to ?**

**We can help you with these issues and many more .**

**Our Advisor provides a personal and confidential service in your own home at a time convenient to you . There is no charge for this service .**

**Funded by Forest of Dean District Council ; Sponsored by Oversby& Co**

**Contact - 01594 860143**

**English Bicknor Lunch Club**

**Contact 01594 836187**

## Community Contacts

### ***The Gloucestershire Wellbeing Trust***

#### ***A support service in times of difficulty***

If you would like to talk to someone in confidence please contact the Community Wellbeing Service at Forest of Dean District Council on 01594 812447 or 01594 812399.

### **Gloucestershire Police**

Find out about local police activity and link in to the various ways you can find support and information by going online to <https://www.gloucestershire.police.uk/neighbourhood-policing/forest-of-dean/>

### **English Bicknor Chit Chat**

The Facebook page contains information about the village and local events. If you are not a Facebook user and would like anything added then please email [Daphne@drysladefarm.co.uk](mailto:Daphne@drysladefarm.co.uk)

### **Christchurch and English Bicknor churches website**

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

VICTIM SUPPORT: [4 Lords Hill, Coleford GL16 : 01594 810190](#)

**If you** run a community organisation and would like the details published in the magazine on this page, please contact Judith on 07708633089

## Who is Who in our Churches?

**Rector:** Revd. Capt. Tony Williams, CA

Christchurch Vicarage Ross Road Christchurch Coleford GL16 7NS 01594 836751 revtonyw@hotmail.com

### **Ministry Team**

Joan Atherley, Sue Boulter, Sandie Bradley, Maggie Walters, Rev Helen Rodwell , Carol Turley, Sally Whittington , Rev Tony Williams, Linda James, Chris Howell

**Reader** Chris Howell

### **Worship Leaders**

Maggie Walters, Carol Turley, Linda James, Sandie Bradley.

**Safeguarding** Andy Iddiols 01594 834598

Or email: pamela-spooner@sky.com

### **Christchurch**

Church Wardens:	Linda James	01594 822935
	Carol Turley	01594 837207
PCC Secretary	Midge Hoyes	07967 561521
Treasurer	Barbara Davies	01594 837270

### **English Bicknor**

Church Wardens ;	Jennie McHattie	01594 834855
	Jan Furnival	01594 541566
PCC secretary	Jan Furnival	01594 541566
Treasurer	John Furnival	01594 541566

-----  
Magazine editor Judith Brickwood 01594 738645 or email  
judithbrickwood33@gmail.com

Magazine Treasurer Jeff Carrick 01594 860936

**Benefice Website** [www.christchurchfod.org.uk](http://www.christchurchfod.org.uk)

# ERNEST HEAL

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