

The Ashcroft Scene

www.ashcroftchurch.org.uk

Minister Rev. Wendy Tucker 01285 653655

Church Office (answerphone): 01285 651145 / email bookings@ashcroftchurch.org.uk

Methodist Freephone Listen to a prayer: 0808 281 2514 / News 0808 281 2478

Watch our weekly service online via Facebook, YouTube or via the online Church link at www.ashcroftchurch.org.uk



JULY 2026

FROM THE EDITORS:

Welcome to this month's Ashcroft Scene. Please let Anna have any articles by Wednesday 24th July for the August issue.



Living Water – this banner is based on the Old Testament story of Moses and the Israelites in the desert. God told Moses to strike the rock and water poured forth for the people to drink. Water is a precious resource. We give thanks for the plentiful supply of clean water for our daily lives.

JULY SERVICES:

Youtube link : https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMrol14LFh_3BW4m_mniw

July 5th Gareth Zimmerman

July 12th Rev Wendy Tucker

July 19th Rev Robert Riddell HC

July 26th LA

Lectionary readings for July

Sunday 5 July – Ord 14. Genesis 24 v 34-38, 42-49, 58-67; Psalm 45 v 10-17; Romans 7 v 15-25a; Matthew 11 v 16-19 & 25-30

Sunday 12 July – Ord 15. Genesis 25 v 19-34; Psalm 19 v 105-112; Romans 8 v 1-11; Matthew 13 v 1-9 v 18-23

Sunday 19 July – Ord 16. Genesis 28 v 10-19a; Psalm 139 v 1-12 & 23-24; Romans 8 v 12-25; Matthew 13 v 24-30 & 36-43

Sunday 26 July – Ord 17. Genesis 29 v 15-28; Psalm 105 v 1-11 & 45b; Romans 8 v 26-39; Matthew 13 v 31-33 & 44-52

Ashcroft Ladies Programme

July 7th Hugely Huggable history of the Teddy Bear

July 14th Party/picnic at Anna's

Summer break until 8th September.

Ashcroft Book Club The next meeting is on the **13th July** and the book is *The Circus of mirrors* by Julie Owen Moylen. On the **7th September** at 10.30 a.m. the book is "The home-made God" by Rachel Joyce. See Glynis Cracknell for more details.

REGULAR EVENTS & REMINDERS

Bible Study:

Second and fourth Thursdays. Contact David Cracknell for more information.

All We Can: Contact Ros Burnip

Ashcroft Book Group:

New members always welcome. Please contact Glynis Cracknell for more details.

Ashcroft Ladies:

Tuesdays at 3.15pm in the Ashcroft Room. £3 per session. Term time only.

Work Club: Mondays from 9am to 11am @ St Lawrences, Chesterton and Tuesdays from 12noon to 2pm @ Ashcroft.

Squeals on Wheels:

Tuesday 10.00-11.30am, term time only

Prayer and Mission Meeting: 1st and 3rd Thursdays 10.30—11.30 am.

"Welcome space" lunches. Tuesday 12.00- 1.30 We would 'welcome' more volunteers to help with Welcome Spaces lunches . If you could help even just occasionally, or would like more details, contact Kate Jopp. Thank you.

Friday Coffee 10—12noon. All welcome to joining us in the Church for coffee and biscuits.

Walking for Christian Aid

Matt ch 5 v 45: Matthew wrote: He (God) ..sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous .. I think Spike Milligan added something about the unjust stealing the just's umbrella!!! However when Glynnis and I, aided by Derek Freeman set out from the Gateway centre for our 4.2 mile walk for Christian Aid (don't forget the .2!) there was a smattering of rain. However, by the time we had walked some distance along the old canal and crossed toward the Edwards College in South Cerney, the rain had passed and despite heavy showers in Cirencester we were dry. Stopping at the back of South Cerney Parish Church we sadly noted the large number of war graves there before continuing on across the wonderfully named BowWow and along a footpath which took us across Station Road and onto footpaths alongside the lake with views of the yachts. We saw lots of wild flowers on the way and plenty of insects – some spiders wrapped up in leaves – very intriguing, whilst we used Derek's bird identification 'app' to learn what the birds were that we could hear calling; blackbirds, thrush and chiff chaffs amongst others. We crossed the spine road and set off around the final lake looking at fish in the stream on the way. Arriving back at the Gateway Centre at 12.45 we enjoyed a much-earned drink and some food.

Thank you to all out sponsors for your support to fund more much needed work by Christian Aid.

Glynnis and Ros

Corinium and Painswick Community Choir Concert

Friday 3rd July 7.30pm

Donations for Action for Children.

Refreshments

Eco church

I have recently been discussing with our town council officers the potential to host a gathering of groups, companies and individuals who are positively working to improve our environment through best eco practice. The idea will be to showcase to the whole community what has been and what can be achieved on the eco front in our town. This is likely to be a Saturday in April 2027 so please watch this space and if you know of any group that we should invite to be part of this event please let me know. *Anna*

Social Justice Action Group

The next meeting of the Social Justice Action Group will be at the church on July 30th at 1030 am. All are welcome.





Celebrating the new Mayor

On Sunday June 7th at 4pm in the parish Church it was a real pleasure to take part in a service of celebration for the new Mayor of Cirencester -our very own Andy Jopp! It was a lovely service with warm words from Canon Graham, a processing choir who treated us to a special anthem and the Town Crier introducing the new Mayor to the town with much gusto and his handbell -all followed by very pleasant refreshments. Ros read a new version of 'If' written by Canon Graham and Steve was also in attendance as the new Deputy Mayor. Several members were there to support our town officials so Ashcroft was very well represented. We wish Andy and also Steve every success in their new roles.

Anna

Hidden Hardship Exhibition

From 13th to 19th June, Ashcroft hosted the 'Hidden Hardship' exhibition on rural poverty (<https://hiddenhardship.coventry.ac.uk/>). Here are some of the comments received:

'A powerful and thought-provoking display, The Cotswolds is an area of people who have and have-not.'

'Very interesting - others having the same problems [as myself].'

'A very well-presented and thought-provoking exhibition. I do hope it will help alleviate what is so hard for those living in villages on low incomes.'

In the short time it was open, around 20 people visited. In addition, it was seen by all the user groups in the church; the attendees (around 80) at the S Cotswolds Foodbank annual report launch; Ros Savage MP; the Gloucestershire and Wilts Standard; and of course the church congregation on Sunday. Many folks stopped to look at the advertising boards outside the church without coming in, and the advertising campaign ensured Ashcroft Church's name was 'out there'. My thanks to all who helped plan and steward the exhibition, erect it and pack it away, and the church members for supporting the idea. If you missed it, it will be travelling to Blockley Church to be shown during the Moreton Show in early September.

Trevor Wills

Report from CTiC:

The AGM for CTiC takes place at 7.30p.m. on Thursday July 16th at Cirencester Baptist Church. All are invited to attend. Ros and Jane Talbot (from the Quakers) who have shared the chairing/ secretary roles for the past year will present the brief annual report. Copies will be available at Ashcroft afterwards. From September St Peters Roman Catholic Church will take the chair.

At the end of the main business Mary Cobbett will give a short talk on the work of the Cirencester Pantry which operates out of Watermoor Church Hall every Friday afternoon as well as organising other events.

After the AGM I (Ros) will be stepping down from CTiC, having served since 2014. (Mike has done so since 2013! And Sue Callard has kindly recently come aboard). I hope the excellent work it does in keeping all the Cirencester Churches in touch with one another and advertising all they do will continue and grow. *Ros*

Report from the Mission Committee:

We reported in the June issue that it had been decided to support the excellent Action for Children project in Stroud called Kingfishers for this coming year. As mentioned, Mike, Anna and myself had visited the project and since then more information about it has been shared with the Ashcroft Ladies who are already exploring ways to fundraise.

Meantime a reminder that on Friday July 3rd from 7.30 to 8.30p.m. Corinium & Painswick Community Choirs are bringing 'Songs of Heart & Grace' to Ashcroft. It will be followed by cake and tea. Entry by donation. Please support this lovely event to support Kingfishers and encourage others to do so too.

Then on July 26th Lisa McColl and Vicky Walter, joint managers of Kingfishers will be taking part in our morning worship, led by me (Ros). They will tell us more about the work they do and be able to answer questions over tea/coffee. A retiring collection will be held for the Mission Fund.

Ros and Mike



Amy Senior

It is with sadness we heard that Amy died on the 7th June, a few months after Geoff, who was our minister in the late 1980s/early 90s. Her funeral service will take place in Emsworth on the 7th July. The following is the obituary in the funeral notice:

"It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Amy, who died peacefully on Sunday 7th June 2026.

Amy will be remembered for the seemingly boundless energy she applied to everything she set out to achieve. From earning the coveted gold medal for nursing while practising midwifery in Scotland, to supporting church humanitarian campaigns by bringing medical education and vaccination programs to families living in the rural jungles of Malaysia, and, of course, through her devoted pastoral work in Hong Kong and the UK.

She will be profoundly missed by her family, friends, and the many communities she served so selflessly.

*Take my life, and let it be
Consecrated, Lord, to thee;
Take my moments and my days,
Let them flow in ceaseless praise."*

