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Prestbury Parish Magazine

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August 2026

£1

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Views expressed in this magazine are not necessarily those of the Editors, the Clergy, the Parochial Church Council, or of any authoritative body of the Church of England

*The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of
St Mary and St Nicolas Prestbury Cheltenham - Registered Charity No 1130933*

continued inside back cover

Cover Picture:

Mother and children going into church

by Bernard Parkin

See page 5

Revival!

While reading the obituary of David Willey, the former long serving BBC Rome correspondent, who died in July, you read that early in his career as a Reuters employee one of his most vivid memories in 1957 was of seeing a shepherd guiding a flock of several hundred sheep along the Via del Corso, one of Rome's main streets early on a Sunday morning. This was before the huge crowds arriving for masses in the ancient city's churches. A different age; it was almost a biblical scene; and offered a ready-made sermon for any priest that day!

Such a vibrant image of a city soaked in Christianity is hard to conceive today. But it is not impossible and the issue of Revival is one that concerns me greatly. Revival is linked to the Latin word for life, Revival seems like breathing new life into something. That is a good image for this time of year, 'Ordinary Time' yes, but following on from the feast of Pentecost, when the early Christians received the gift of the Holy Spirit. There have been many times in the church's history when things seemed at a low point and then revival happened. In the 18th century here in the west of England men like George Whitefield and John Wesley led the new evangelical movement with Wesley travelling some 5,000 miles a year on horseback and starting services at 5 am for local miners who would worship with tears running down blackened cheeks. In 1904 and 1905, not far westwards in south Wales the Welsh Revival (see *photograph*) brought thousands of families to Jesus with dramatic changes in behaviour and social welfare. To observers, it seemed like the very ground people walked on was on fire with the Holy Spirit.

People might say if only we could rekindle that fire today! In the Church of England there was also a revival in the mid 1800s, a time when many churches and chapels in the county and throughout the country were built or re-built.

Imagine the kind of energy, passion and hope that led to thousands of pounds (many millions in modern money) being raised by ordinary people for the love of God to build that church or glorify it.

What needs to happen for revival to take hold once again? That's what we are debating right now. There's a way to go before we get back to congregations of 200 in the morning and 100 in the evening. Or the Sunday School with 1,000 children every Sunday! Yes, really! This was church and chapel life in Victorian times. But there is the will to try hard to get back, based on humbleness of spirit and a willingness to make services relevant, dignified and interesting to many who have never known what it's like to attend a church. When you pass a local parish church or chapel, think of the energy it took to build it in the first place. And if you value what you think it stands for, please look inside and receive some of that power yourself!



94 converts are baptised in 25 minutes in an icy River Gwuan in Fishguard, part of the 1905 Welsh Revival!

Fr Nick

A Desert Island with Enamelled Discs

We loaded two weeks' worth of food, plus camping kit, including axes and saws into the two canoes. Jackie and I then ensured they were firmly tied up alongside the pontoon, and then went into the supply store to sign the necessary paperwork. On returning to the pontoon, though, we discovered that there was only one canoe tied up. There, far away in the distance we could see the other canoe with, two rapidly-diminishing figures paddling furiously away. Our two daughters. Jo 14; Justine 11. They were SUPPOSED to be travelling, one in each canoe, with an adult!! Thus it continued for the next two weeks.

Where were we: The Algonquin backwoods of Canada. The target we had set ourselves was a small island, on a distant lake, to the north of the Algonquin range of lakes. These huge lakes rather resemble a pile of builder's sand, onto the top of which a bucket of water has been poured and allowed to run freely down the sides leaving streams and puddles (lakes) behind. It was a question of navigating up the streams and rivers, from one lake to another. Like the pile of sand however it was not always possible to navigate from one lake to another, either because the water was flowing too fast or the water ways were blocked by fallen trees or beaver dams. In these incidents, the only option was to unload the canoes and 'portage' via the banks or tracks through the forest to the next lake, reload and carry on. Sometimes the exercise was repeated several times a day, and sometimes over a distance of one or two kilometres. This sounds not too bad but two weeks kit, plus the canoes, requires each person to make a loaded carrying trip, followed by an empty trip, followed by at least one more loaded trip. Altogether on some portages some ten kilometres, six kilometres of which were with heavy loads. (Plus of course the joy of knowing that you have to complete the whole exercise again, on the way back!!! Why do we do this???)

After three and a half days travel we reached the Burntroot Lake some, five kilometres long and two kilometres wide, which we were aiming for and the island, towards the far end of the lake which was about the footprint size of the St Nicolas' buildings. On an initial exploration of the island we found a moose antler and so named the island Moose Antler Island.

We then established a camp on a bluff above a small beach, on which to store the canoes, with a clear view out across the lake. The tent we securely tucked into the trees, which we judged would be out of direct lightning strikes, which can be frequent. Having built a substantial ring of stones for a fire, the next job was to obtain fuel. Jo with her guiding and Air Force Cadet training departed with the axe to cut up fallen trees for me to drag back and to further cut down to firewood, with the saw, ready for Justine to build a fire. Jackie as Quarter Master selected the food and with the fire at a good cooking temperature, we took in turns to cook. Oh yes, no good blaming THE cook, if you can do better.....? Then the enamelled plates came out! (Desert Island Discs.)

Each day we swam round the island, every three days throughout the trip we went through First Aid routines for arterial bleeding and resuscitation. Not because we risked forgetting these routines but to remind us that we were in a potentially dangerous environment. Under the instruction of Jo we built bivouacs, and slept under them.

On one occasion we ventured into Whistle Bay on the 'mainland' to see if the story of a loggers' camp from 1882 (it was now 1986) was true. After trekking for a couple of hours

we reached Whistle Lake and found amongst the trees on the shore, barrel rings, large cast iron kettles and various other detritus of a camp, which had been used for often no more than 3 months before the loggers moved on.

One amusing incident was, during a stormy night, a sudden rush of water descended on the tent roof and ran down the side in a long river of noise. One occupant of the tent, no names, feared that it was a bear 'peeing' on the tent. Rational thought however prevailed, why would a bear swim 1 km, climb a 3m steep bank to relieve itself on the side of an 'invaders' tent???

The extraordinary thing was that, for the six days we were in camp on our deserted island, we saw no other human being, or even signs of current human life. The question that forcefully struck us as we headed back to civilisation was:

How many people in history have had the privilege of the 'choice' of spending six days together as a family, with no sight of another human being?

John Moles

Footnotes:

Both girls were strong swimmers, and had been training by swimming a mile, three times a week. They had advanced Swimming Survival Skills badges and Outdoor Pursuits first aid training.

Logging Camps were, and still are, mainly operative during the winter when the ground is frozen and allows heavy vehicles to cross the soft ground of the forest with minimal impact on the sub-strata. Frozen bogs and swamps also become useable for transport.

Can bears swim. All bears can, apparently, swim, extremely well, far faster than humans which is why swimming with Polar Bears, who simply see humans as food, is not a popular pastime!!!



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Islands in the Sun

Some islands are far from deserted. *Bernard Parkin* recalls visiting the Caribbean.

This month's cover picture

Mother and children going into church for morning service on Tortola, British Virgin Islands

As Pamela and I watched scenes like this, wearing our holiday casuals and from a distance, a lady crossed the road and invited us in. Explaining that we couldn't possibly, dressed as we were (all the men, women and children were in their Sunday best). 'It will be all right if you sit at the back', we were told. The service was exactly the same as Matins in St Mary's back in our younger days - same hymns and tunes, same psalms and chants, the old prayer book and special prayers, devotedly said for Elizabeth our Queen.

It made our holiday.



A Steel Bandsman busking on an Antigua quayside

Pictures from Bernard Parkin

Who was that Wag?

I seem to recall many years ago one of Roy Plumley's guests when asked on the popular BBC radio programme, *Desert Island Discs* what luxury item he would like to take said his son suggested taking a car door, so that if it were hot he could wind down the window.

If any reader knows the identity of the guest, I would be interested to hear who it was.

Brian Wood

DESERT ISLAND DISCS

I understand that both The Bible and The Complete Works of Shakespeare will be waiting for me on my island and I am allowed to take one other book of my choice. I have decided that it would have to be my family photo album. I am also permitted to take one luxury item, and I think this would have to be a 15-year-old bottle of Glenfarclas single malt and when I've drunk it I would send an SOS message in the empty bottle!

1. A STEEL BAND MEDLEY

To include Yellow Bird, Island in the Sun and Rum & Coca Cola. I would be reminded of happy times at dances here in the seventies and lots of fun in Caribbean sunshine in later years.

2. MISERERE MEI DEUS

The choral masterpiece of a 9-voice setting written by Gregorio Allegri in the 1630s (based on Psalm 51) for the Sistine Chapel in the Vatican City. My mother used to say she could imagine this beautiful music as the perfect accompaniment for her journey from 'here to heaven'. I find it very calming and I am reminded when I listen to it of my mother, who was always calm, kind and wise.

3. MIO BABBINO CARO

Sung by Kiri Te Kanawa. This I consider is Giacomo Puccini's finest. It translates as 'O My Beloved Father' and is from the opera Gianni Schicchi. This piece transports me back into Italy, and to Florence in particular.

4. IN THE BLEAK MIDWINTER

I'll need to celebrate Christmas and Christina Rossetti's verses do just that. To the tune 'Cranham' written in 1906 by Gustav Holst. Holst was living in the village of Cranham at the time but was born at 4 Clarence Road, 50 yards from my childhood home in Pittville. His father, Adolphus, was a friend of my grandfather, John Walcroft, and first organist and choirmaster at All Saints Church where my maternal family worshipped for almost 100 years. Adolphus's garden backed onto my grandfather's garden. In the Bleak Midwinter was Pam's favourite carol so it has a real place in my heart.

5. I VOW TO THEE, MY COUNTRY

Gustav Holst again. Taken from 'Jupiter, the Bringer of Jollity' in the orchestral Planets Suite and adapted into a patriotic hymn. Words originally written as a poem in 1908 by Cecil Spring Rice and paired with Holst's music, the poem became a congregational hymn in 1925 in the hymn book 'Songs of Praise'. I sang this wonderful hymn at services every Sunday throughout World War 2 when churches were packed, especially on periodic 'National Days of Prayer' when prayers were especially needed.

6. THE WARSAW CONCERTO

by Richard Adinsell. The theme tune to the 1941 wartime film 'Dangerous Moonlight' which I saw then as an eleven-year-old impressionable schoolboy. Whenever I hear this, I am reminded of the distinctive, heavy throb of BMW engines powering Heinkel bombers as they flew over my home in Pittville on their bombing missions, of searchlights probing the sky trying to locate them and the night they flew no further than Cheltenham, we being their target. I hear, even now, the screeching whistle of a massive bomb as it hurtled over our rooftop and demolished the Black & White Bus Station, 100 yards away. The vibration

shook our house and threw me off my perch on my father's fretsaw in his workshop basement where my family were sheltering. A reminder of an exciting childhood, it is a piece of music of which I will never tire.

7. GLENN MILLER MEDLEY

In contrast to Addinsell, when the Americans arrived in Britain to help us win the war, they brought with them a lively enthusiasm which helped boost our flagging morale – as well as candy, Camel cigarettes, silk stockings and gum liberally handed out. They introduced us to Glenn Miller music, including the 'Jitterbug', swept girls off their feet and took lots of them back to the USA as 'GI Brides'. All who enter my downstairs cloakroom are treated to a rendering of Glenn Miller's 'In the Mood' - would you believe, by way of a flowerpot of battery-powered dancing, musical flowers!

8. THE BIG COUNTRY

Theme tune written and conducted by Jerome Moross for the 1958 American Western, using the MGM Symphony Orchestra. I would have to include a tune from a Western and this would be the one. A film I have watched many times and could easily take the part of Gregory Peck, Burl Ives or any of the cast without referring to the script, as I know every word!

9. CAPTAIN CORELLI'S MANDOLIN

Theme tune (by Stephen Warbeck) to the film set during World War Two on the island of Kefalonia, based on the book by Louis de Bernieres. To me, this haunting tune needs no accompaniment, just the simple mandolin.

10. THE LARK ASCENDING

Nicola Benedetti playing her violin to Ralph Vaughan Williams' classical piece of music which he wrote in 1914. Vaughan Williams and Gustav Holst were close friends and musical confidants and met at the Royal College of Music in 1895. I would play this record to immediately transport myself from my island of sand and sea to the top of Cleeve Hill in midsummer, where I would lie flat-out among the harebells and grasshoppers, gazing up at a cloudless sky and listening to the skylarks as they climb into the heavens, as I did in my younger years

11. SHIRLEY BASSEY

I think I would have to include Shirley singing 'Goldfinger', especially as it was the theme tune to one of the best James Bond films. Composed by John Barry, one of Britain's best film composers, in 1964. To me, there was only one Bond and that was Sean Connery in his prime, and without a doubt, only one Shirley Bassey!

12. THE CRUCIFIXION

Composed by John Stainer in 1887. 140 years later it remains one of the most cherished works in the Anglican choral repertoire. I think the attraction of Stainer's work is its simplicity and the fact it has good, singable hymns running through it. Pam and I used to listen to The Crucifixion, and sometimes a live performance, every Good Friday of our long, married life, so that recording has to come with me when I am stranded on my 'island in the sun'. If I could take only one record to my island, this would be it.

Bernard Parkin

DESERT ISLAND REVISITED



Desert Island Jukebox (1992)

Stephen Nicoll (b. 1946)

I have already written about musical choices on that mythical Desert Island where I am shipwrecked with eight tracks and no others. Initially, therefore, I want to concentrate more on the additional book and the luxury item which one is allowed to choose as companion pieces. With the wonders of modern technology, we can now accompany numerous celebrities to the desert island of their imaginations. The BBC Radio 4 website is a free archive full of hundreds of distracting tracks and interviews with public figures past and present. Choose your individual and hear what they chose.

It is illuminating to consider the various choices which celebrities have selected over the years. In 1954, John Betjeman who was on the programme twice boldly chose the lower half of the West Window of St Mary's Church, Fairford. Margaret Thatcher chose the family photograph album and ours not hers would be a wonderful and salutary reminder of all that heredity, genetics and love can muster. What nostalgia and memories it would provoke in the solitary self talking to itself on a lonely island with no designated Memory Lane.

On the more practical front, we might like to follow the poet U.A.Fanthorpe who chose a bird book together with bath and fresh towels. Over the many years since the BBC programme's first broadcast with Roy Plomley in 1942, the choices of luxury item have tended to divide into three broad categories: musical instruments, food and drink, and creature comforts. Jarvis Cocker chose a 'A bed with a mosquito net', while Bill Bailey selected a 'pack of cards' and Jeremy Clarkson 'a jet ski'. Emmy Lou Harris was even allowed 'a library.' And so on.

The book extra to the Bible and collected Shakespeare remains a veritable test of text and focus. I prefer the notion of an expanding library to the idea of any one book, however profound it has been thought to be. To re-read the Book of Job on a remote island would seem penance indeed and I can imagine finding the Book of Revelation provoking me all the way from John on the Greek island of Patmos. But what apart from a well-stocked library would relieve you or me from some kind of verbal imprisonment? The answer of course is music, music, music and not just eight carefully curated tracks by which to express a limited life or personality but the whole liberating gamut from 'Penny Lane' and 'Waterloo Sunset' to Chopin's Nocturnes and Beethoven's last three or more quartets.

Even as I type this, I am listening to a most beguiling CD of joyous, uplifting and plangent music. It is on the Naxos label, and it is the delightful *Venezuelan Waltzes for Guitar* by Antonio Lauro and played beautifully by Adam Holzman. Magic, as indeed all wonderful music is.

So what is it about music which so transports the mind and regenerates the emotions? I wish I knew. It seems to be the one art form which can genuinely entrance animals not of our own species. People refer to 'my music' and seem to enjoy and identify with a whole range of individual sounds. It is the great consolation and mood-enhancer which is not a chemical drug.

When the Robertson family was shipwrecked and fighting for survival in their tiny dinghy against the odds in the Pacific Ocean in 1972, they remembered the formula for 'Desert Island Discs' and created their own makeshift version as a distraction. The father Dougal Robertson sang or hummed the chosen tunes while the others listened. As he said, 'The youngsters chose much more serious music than either Lyn or I had expected and while I tried to sing as many of the classical pieces selected as I could remember, I had insurmountable difficulty with most, such as Elgar's *Enigma Variations* for Robin, music to the ballet *Coppelia* for Douglas, Bizet's *Symphony in C* for Lyn. Beethoven's *Violin Concerto* was my own choice; I could not recall a single note, and yet I had heard it played recently.'

I am now listening to another favourite CD: C.P.E. Bach Sinfonia No 1 in D Major. Magnificent. And it is a timely reminder that our music-loving ancestors did not have the inestimable luxury of exquisite music on demand. Without being a rich and aristocratic patron, I can now, through the wonders of modern technology, summon the brilliance of the Salzburg Chamber Philharmonic Orchestra into the room and indeed any room in the house. The real castaways are those who may have no refreshing music in their lives. As Gustav Holst wrote in a letter to his musicologist friend W.G. Whittaker in 1914, 'Music, being identical with heaven, isn't a thing of momentary thrills, or even hourly ones. It's a condition of eternity.'

Duncan Forbes

Two St Stephens - in two countries on two consecutive days!

We recently went on a Blue Danube river cruise. It so happened that we were in Vienna and saw the Cathedral of St Stephen on the 4th June, then in Budapest and saw the Basilica of St Stephen on the 5th June (definitions of the differences between the two buildings explained by Google below).

St Stephen's Cathedral

St Stephen's cathedral in Vienna is the city's most recognizable landmark and Austria's finest Gothic building. Construction was started in 1147, and had various additions over the following centuries. Surprisingly, the cathedral remained unscathed during World War 2, but, bizarrely, civilian gangs set fire to the church in April 1945 causing serious damage. However, the building was repaired and re-opened in 1952, along with the re-cast bell. One particular thing of note is the amazing roof, which is covered with 230,000 tiles of various colours.

The weather let us down while we were in Vienna – however, we were given 90 minutes of free time to wander in the area. Normally this would have been a joy, but with constant heavy rain the appeal was less strong, and we thought we would start off in the cathedral where at least it was dry. In fact, we stayed inside for best part of an hour, so got to know the (beautiful, Gothic) interior quite well! However, it was, of course, very crowded.



Exterior



Pulpit



Interior

(Attribution: C.Stadler/Bwag)

.....

St Stephen's Basilica

The following day we were in Budapest with some free time, so we walked to St Stephen's Basilica which is a much more recent affair, construction being completed in 1905 after 50 years. It is built in a Neoclassical style with similarities to St Paul's Cathedral in London. It contains Hungarian Catholicism's holiest relic – the preserved right hand of King Stephen.



St Stephen's is the most important church building in Hungary, one of the most significant tourist attractions, also the third highest church in Hungary. The dome can be accessed either by elevator or 364 steps for a panoramic view. (We did not avail ourselves of this option!)

A Christmas fair is held in the square in front of the basilica during the Advent season, and at that time of the year the façade is decorated with special light paintings in the evenings.

Part of the 2016 movie 'Inferno' was filmed in St Stephen Square in front of the basilica.

As a postscript – another church of interest was the Blue Church in Bratislava (Slovakia) as below



Stella Caney

A **cathedral** holds a special place as the mother church of a diocese. It is where the bishop's chair, or cathedra, resides – a symbol of his teaching authority and pastoral care.

A **basilica** is a church that has been granted special privileges by the Pope. This designation recognizes the historical, artistic, or spiritual significance of the building. Basilicas often serve as places of pilgrimage and hold a place of honour in the Roman Catholic world.

Google

What hidden treasures will you discover?

Dear Supporter,

We are delighted to share that Chorley's has chosen Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust as its **Charity of the Year**

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St Stephen's Church, Cinderford (GL14 2AA)

Friday 4 September | 10.00am – 2.00pm

St Mary's Church, Beverston (GL8 8TU)

Friday 11 September | 10.00am – 2.00pm

Bring along your antiques, jewellery, silver, ceramics, collectables, pictures, books or other interesting items and receive a **free expert valuation** from a Chorley's specialist.

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If you choose to sell, you decide what percentage of the final sale price you would like to donate to Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust. You can donate **25%, 50%, 75% or even 100%** of the proceeds, allowing you to support a cause you care about while still receiving a share of the sale if you wish.

It's a wonderful opportunity to uncover hidden treasures, clear some space at home and help protect Gloucestershire's historic churches for future generations.

So, before the valuation days arrive, why not spend an hour looking through those cupboards, attics and drawers? You never know what treasures you might uncover.

We hope you'll join us at one of our Valuation Days and look forward to welcoming you.

With best wishes,

Sophie

Administrator Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust

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My Desert Island Discs

In 2019 a group of radio critics voted Desert Island Discs the greatest radio programme of all time, it is difficult to think of a programme to challenge their choice. The simple format was devised by Roy Plomley 84 years ago, with the BBC initially offering him an agreement for eight programmes, the next milestone will be 3500 editions! It is difficult to think of the programme not going on to celebrate its centenary in sixteen years.

While the questions posed to the castaways are not as probing as another great radio programme, "In the Psychiatrist's Chair" (last broadcast in 2001!) the guest often reveals intimate detail about their life from the security of picking their favourite music. I am sure that we have all pondered what our eight gramophone records might be or have discussed it over a meal with friends. On the basis that I am not going to be invited to be a guest on Radio Four I will share my choices. It really is difficult to narrow down to eight, so as it is a bit of fun, I will also let you know some that didn't make it!

In the 70s I moved from age eleven to twenty-one and developed my own music taste. Growing up we listened to Dad's choice of Glenn Miller or Joe Loss and he was not impressed with me developing a liking for "ruddy jungle music". David Bowie's "Jean Genie" takes me back to being fourteen and joining the youth club at St Mark's church, in our home town, Plymouth. I have had to ignore all of later growing up and university years, although "Stepping Out" by Joe Jackson always seemed to be playing in my friend Pat's Mini as he whizzed around the Devon lanes near Exeter.

Nichola and I met in 1983 and were married in 1984 and soon had four children buzzing around the place. Nic became a personal trainer, something else that my multi-talented wife thought would be a challenge but became the top student on the course and was soon leading circuit training groups around the Bishop's Cleeve area. Sometimes the children would have to go with her and they still laugh when they hear "Small Town Boy" by Bronski Beat with memories of Lycra clan ladies and using their lunch boxes to step up and down on as the gym benches were too tall for them. David Bowie and Bronski Beat would get me moving in the morning, I once suggested to a lovely friend that I would choose "Walking on Sunshine" by Katrina and the Waves as a wake-up call, it almost ended our friendship!! Rachel is now the Vicar of Holy Trinity, Longlevens....it has never been discussed again.

When you live with somebody a long time, some days are better than others and in 2003 Nichola and I had a particularly bad time, in fact we separated and lived in different houses for nine years and fifty-one weeks, we now refer to this time as our sabbatical. At the time there was a song called "White Flag" by Dido, that seemed to be playing on the radio – all the time. Despite how difficult things are, there is always humour, at this time Nic worked for Beatrice von Tresckow in Cheltenham, many of you will know her shop, Beatrice once described our situation as being about as good as it gets!! Apparently, there are times when many ladies would like to live in a different house to their husband.

So, there we were, we had got ourselves into the mad situation of living in different houses and you then have to find a way back, as I mentioned this went on for almost ten years and so if I wrote it all down our editor would have a challenging task! There are several songs from those ten years that I would like to have to have on my desert island, but I can only squeeze in two. One evening I was sitting at home quietly and my telephone pinged with a

message from Nic saying things are not over, I'm listening to this. The song was "Against All Odds" by Phil Collins. I will leave you to look up the lyrics, but it was emotional listening to the words then and it still is. There were two other songs that seemed to weave their way through the troubled part of our life "Fire and Rain" by the brilliant James Taylor and "Have I Told You lately" by that Irish curmudgeon, Van Morrison. I'm not sure how somebody who always seems so grumpy can write such beautiful words. We once went to see James Taylor in Cardiff, a birthday gift for my wife, as we drove down the M5, Nichola reminded me that when you buy somebody a present, you should buy them something that they want – not something that you want! So, this time Van gets the vote over James Taylor.

So, on my desert island I need some lovely music to reflect on and so would choose our local hero, given that his Dad once played the organ in North Cheltenham. Gustav Holst's "The Planets", my favourite piece is "Venus, the Bringer of Peace". It was a tough choice with Elgar's cello concerto, but as Elgar gets a mention next, I felt that I would share the love!

So where does Elgar fit in. I'm sure many of us have discussed the music that we would like at our funeral, I would like "Nimrod" from the Enigma Variations. The eight-disc rule means that I can't include Nichola's choice. She loves "The Armed Man" by Sir Karl Jenkins and would probably choose the "Benedictus". Listeners to Classic FM will know of their Hall of Fame, when I told Nic that there was a new number one this year, she commented "not that bl*dy bird again!!" She is not a fan of Vaughan Williams' "The Lark Ascending"; she was delighted with the number one news.

So, to number eight, no hymn so far, I was left with a choice between two, "Dear Lord and Father of Mankind" seems to have been played at major events in our family life, it was a favourite of my Mum's and sung at her funeral. It was sung at our wedding; "forgive our foolish ways" always makes me smile when it is sung at a wedding. I have chosen "The Day that Thou Gavest, Lord, is Ended", in honour of my Dad, after he came to terms with my musical taste and the length of my hair, we got on very well. Dad had a tough time in the war, which he never talked about, for him it would have to be the version with the Royal Marines playing Sunset, a fine tune to end the day on my little corner of the Empire, as I await rescue.

I am also allowed a book along with the Bible and the works of Shakespeare. I would take "Finding Your Hidden Treasure" by Benignus O'Rourke, just a lovely book, written by an Augustinian Friar to help us discover the power of silent prayer. My luxury would be The Plough, in Mill Street, just behind St Mary's, if that is not allowed, then an unlimited supply of Hereford Pale Ale, my favourite beer. When all but one of my records are washed away, I think that I would choose Van Morrison, perhaps with a long time to reflect it would be a good lesson.

Jean Genie: David Bowie

Small Town Boy: Bronski Beat

White Flag: Dido

Against All Odds: Phil Collins

Have I Told You Lately: Van Morrison

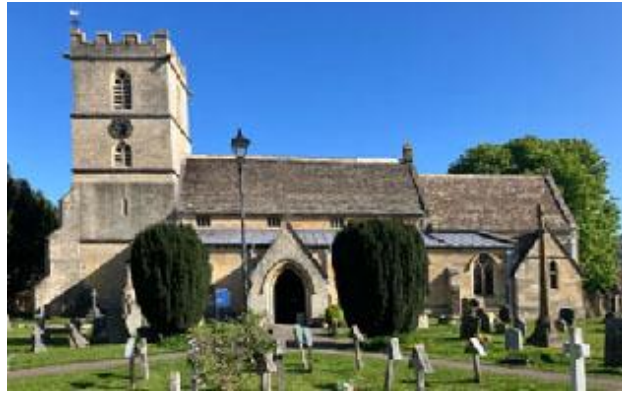
Venus, from the Planets: Gustav Holst

Nimrod, from the Enigma Variations: Edward Elgar

The Day Thou Gavest Lord is Ended: John Ellerton

Chris Horswell

St Mary's Church, Prestbury Clock & Gilding Appeal



Proposed Restoration Projects supported by The Friends of St Mary's and The Village 2026

St Mary's has stood physically and spiritually at the centre of Prestbury life for many centuries.

The Friends of St Mary's (FOSM) was set up in 2009 to raise funds for the restoration of the church roof and other fabric projects. A recent generous legacy has already enabled the reroofing and insulation in 2025 of the Cotswold stone roof north pitch, and major repairs to the organ. The PCC now also plans to reroof the south pitch and remaining roofs. The quote for this work has been received at £93,240 including VAT.

A prominent feature is the clock that has rung time over the village since 1889. Winding is required three times a week, done by a dedicated team of 12 people. After 135 years the clock is showing its age, becoming increasingly unreliable and stopping frequently because of worn bearings. Repairs, on site but requiring the removal of drive shafts and hands, are estimated at £10,000 including VAT, and the refurbishment of faces and regilding of hands a further £18,000 including VAT.

Any help you can give in funding these projects would be hugely appreciated, as well as using Gift Aid. Longer term this could be through a legacy in your Will.



Fr. Nick Bramfield

Donations can be by bank transfers or cheques to:

The Friends of St Mary's Prestbury Sort code 40-17-10 Account N^o 72189542

Please return to:

FOSM North Cheltenham Team Ministry Office 5 High Street Prestbury GL52 3AR

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Forthcoming Events

Prestbury Memorial Trust Coffee and Cake Morning

Thursday 6th August 10am—12noon at the Pavilion, Royal Oak, The Burgage, Prestbury Everyone welcome!

Bereavement Friendship Group

We will be meeting in St Mary's Church, Prestbury on Monday 17 August at 2.15-4pm

If you have lost a loved one and would like to talk to others in a similar situation, please come along. You will be most welcome, whether you are new or have come before.

Light refreshments will be provided.

Sue Challenger

Welcome On Wednesday

Wednesday 19 August at 2.30pm in the St Nicolas Room. There will be home-made cakes, tea or coffee for £2 and the chance to meet friends and have a friendly chat. So please come along, maybe bringing a neighbour? Give it a try!



TIMES OF REGULAR CHURCH SERVICES

St Mary's Church, Prestbury

Sunday	0800	Eucharist
	0930	Breakfast Celebrate! – All-age worship
	0900	Breakfast Celebrate! (restarts in September)
	1100	Sung Eucharist
1st Sunday	1830	Evening Prayer at Capel Court
2nd Sunday	1800	Benediction
Other Sundays	1800	Evening Prayer
Thursday	1030	Said Eucharist

St Nicolas Church, Prestbury

Sunday	0930*	Sung Eucharist
Tuesday	1000	Said Eucharist

All Saints Church, Pittville

Sunday	0800	Holy Mass
	1030*	Solemn Mass
Weekdays		Holy Mass usually on 3 days, check noticeboard
Saturday	1st Saturday 1000	Holy Mass for Our Lady of Walsingham

St Lawrence Church, Swindon Village

Sunday	1st Sunday	0930	Family Communion
		1700	Evensong
	2nd Sunday	0930	BCP Holy Communion
	3rd Sunday	0930	Holy Communion
		1700	Evensong
	4th Sunday	0930	Holy Communion
	5th Sunday	1000	Benefice Holy Communion
			alternates with St Mary Magdalene

St Mary Magdalene Church, Elmstone Hardwicke

Sunday	1st Sunday	1100	BCP Holy Communion
	2nd Sunday	1100	Family Service (no communion)
	3rd Sunday	1100	Holy Communion
	4th Sunday	1100	Holy Communion
	5th Sunday	1000	Benefice Holy Communion
			alternates with St Lawrence
Thursday	2nd Thursday	1900	Celtic Evening Prayer
	4th Thursday	1900	Celtic Communion

* These services are usually streamed on the internet. These and other services are recorded so may be accessed live or later on the Team's YouTube page -

<https://www.youtube.com/NorthCheltenhamTeamMinistry/streams>

Parish Directory *continued*

Children's Work

Linda Biggs 01242 510856
linda.biggs@prestbury.net

Safeguarding Officer

Linda Biggs 07769 581822

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Advertising: Richard Johnson 07535 417828
advertising@prestbury.net

St Mary's C of E (VA) Schools

Executive Head Teacher: Mr Matt Ferris
01242 383817

Hall Letting

Prestbury Hall, Bouncers Lane
bookings@prestburyhall.com
St Nicolas Hall, Swindon Lane
hallhire@northchelt.org.uk

Parish Giving Scheme

76 Kingsholm Road,
Gloucester GL1 3BD 0333 002 1260
info@parishgiving.org.uk

Copy Dates and Themes for Future Magazines 2026

Issue		Copy Date		Theme
September	Sunday	16	August	Ireland
October	Sunday	13	September	Scotland
November	Sunday	11	October	Wales
Dec / Jan	Sunday	15	November	Memorials

Prestbury Parish Magazine is usually published on the last Sunday of the month. The copy date is usually the Sunday 2 weeks before this, but there may be scope for some flexibility.

Copy may be sent in a clearly marked envelope to 'Prestbury Parish Magazine'
2 Honeysuckle Close, Prestbury, Cheltenham, GL52 5LN
or preferably by email to **magazine@prestbury.net**

September 2026 Magazine Theme: Ireland
Please send copy by Sunday 16 August 2026
or very soon after



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