



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

Church and Community News and Events

October 2021

50p

ALL SOULS SERVICE.

Remembering our loved ones

A special time for family, friends and community to come together so we can remember and give thanks for our loved ones who have passed away.

All welcome

Christchurch Parish Church

Sunday 31st October

6.00pm



Who is Who in the Benefice

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 (Pastoral Team Leader), Glenda White-Miller (Reader) , Sally Whittington , Rev Tony Williams, Linda James

Safeguarding Pam Iddiols and Andy Iddiols 01594 834598
Or email: pamela-spooner@sky.com

Christchurch

Church Wardens:	David Fudge	01594 726144
	Trevor Harvey	01594 835897
PCC Secretary	Judith Brickwood	01594 781436
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 781436
Magazine Treasurer	Jeff Carrick	01594 860936

Benefice Website www.christchurchfod.org.uk

From the Vicarage:



The days are getting shorter! In the summer months I love riding my motorbike to the Prison where I spend half my working week, setting off at 6.00 am in the clear morning light and coming back at about 6.00pm, still with the sun shining and a light evening ahead! Now though, it's time to do battle with glare of headlights, drizzle, slippery roads and darkness. It is really easy to forget the lighter days as the late Autumn and Winter darkness grow.

Some people hide away as the days grow shorter. Many suffer with seasonal affective disorder and some just don't feel confident venturing out in the cold and damp. On the other hand, some of us love the warmth and welcome of the open fire, the lights in the windows and the promise of the celebrations that winter brings.

Our community has shown a 'Big heart' during the worst of times. Our hope is that it continues into the coming season as we look out for our neighbours and friends. Maybe small acts of kindness can bring warmth into the dark months ahead.

The bible often talks about light and darkness, about seasons and change. A well-known passage from Ecclesiastes says this:

A Time for Everything.

- 3 There is a time for everything,
and a season for every activity under the heavens:
- 2 a time to be born and a time to die,
a time to plant and a time to uproot,
- 3 a time to kill and a time to heal,
a time to tear down and a time to build,

⁴ a time to weep and a time to laugh,
a time to mourn and a time to dance,
⁵ a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them,
a time to embrace and a time to refrain from
embracing,
⁶ a time to search and a time to give up,
a time to keep and a time to throw away,
⁷ a time to tear and a time to mend,
a time to be silent and a time to speak,
⁸ a time to love and a time to hate,
a time for war and a time for peace.

⁹What do workers gain from their toil? ¹⁰I have seen the burden God has laid on the human race. ¹¹He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end. ¹²I know that there is nothing better for people than to be happy and to do good while they live. ¹³That each of them may eat and drink, and find satisfaction in all their toil—this is the gift of God.



It just maybe that the wisdom captured in the bible on your book shelf is worth a read from time to time.

Tony Williams RECTOR

Prayers for October

Lord as we go into shorter days and longer nights, bring us your light to show us the way. We thank you for this beautiful time of the year, the wonderful colours of the forest.

The crisp air and cooler days bring an altogether different feel to how we go about our daily lives. Be with us and guide us through our daily tasks. Lord we pray for inspiration to find ways of reaching others to pass on your message. We thank you for our family and friends, for our neighbours and help us to learn to respect, care and most of all to love each other as you taught us to do. Amen.



Adoration

God is wise and powerful!
Praise Him for ever and ever.
He controls the times and the seasons;
He makes and unmakes Kings,
It is He who gives wisdom and understanding.
Daniel: 20-21

Christ behind me

Lord, I commit my failures
as well as my successes
into your hands,
and I bring for your healing
the people and the situations,
the wrongs and hurts of the past.
Give me courage, strength and gener-
osity
to let go and move on
leaving the past behind me



and living the present to the full.
Lead me always to be positive
as I entrust the past to your mercy,
the present to your love, and the future
to your providence.

St Augustine.



I got up early one morning
And rushed right into the day;
I had so much to accomplish
That I didn't have time to pray.
Problems just tumbled about me,
And heavier came each task;
"Why doesn't God help me?" I wondered
He answered, "You didn't ask."
I wanted to see joy and beauty
But the day toiled on grey and bleak
I wondered why God didn't show me
He said, "But you didn't seek,"
I tried to come to God's presence;
I used all my keys in the lock.
God gently and lovingly chided,
"My child, you didn't knock."
I woke up early this morning,
And paused before entering the day;
I had so much to accomplish
That I had to take time to pray.
Author unknown.



Keep praying, but be thankful that God's answers are wiser than your prayers.

Experience is what you've got when you're too old to use it!



Play Mornings at Christchurch

Thursday Mornings 9:30 - 11am

(Doors open at 9 to allow anyone dropping older siblings at school to come straight to Play Morning.)

We are currently short of adult helpers for these sessions, so Barbara would love to hear from anyone who might be interested in helping out. If you might be able to help, either regularly or occasionally, please use the email below to arrange to visit, so that you can see what is involved before making any sort of commitment.

For more information contact:

Barbara: 01594 837270

email: playatcc@gmail.com

Facebook: [@PlayMorningsatChristchurch](https://www.facebook.com/PlayMorningsatChristchurch)

Geography quiz for October

- 1 What is the capital of Chile?
- 2 Where is the world's most active volcano?
- 3 If you were in the Ural mountains, what country would you be in?
- 4 In which ocean is the deepest oceanic trench on Earth?
- 5 If you were asked 'hvor er du fra', what Scandinavian country would you be in?
- 6 How many countries in the world currently have monarchies?
- 7 What's the smallest city in the UK?
- 8 The famous Kruger National Park is in which country?
- 9 How many states are there in India?
- 10 What is the UK's largest lake?





Acorns Preschool

New provision opening September 2021 at Berry Hill Primary School



New teacher-led Acorns preschool.
Integrated with our Reception Class to provide all through, high quality Early-Years experience for children aged 3-5 years.

Flexible sessions Monday to Friday during term-time:

3 hour morning session: 8.45-11.45am (£12)

3 hour afternoon session: 12.15-3.15pm (£12)

Option to stay for lunch: 11.45-12.15pm

(£2, nutritious healthy meals cooked fresh on site, or bring packed lunch).

Glos CC funding accepted, employer vouchers accepted.

Before or after school provision is a possibility through our Buddies Club - please ask if you would be interested in this.

#Acorns-to-Oak

Join us as an **Acorn** in our preschool
leave us as an **Oak** in Year 6

Contact 01594 832262 /

admin@berryhill.gloucs.sch.uk for more info or
to book places for September.



Best Corny Dad Jokes

- "I'm afraid for the calendar. Its days are numbered."
- "My wife said I should do lunges to stay in shape. That would be a big step forward."
- "Why do fathers take an extra pair of socks when they go golfing?" "In case they get a hole in one!"
- "Singing in the shower is fun until you get soap in your mouth. Then it's a soap opera."
- "What do a tick and the Eiffel Tower have in common?" "They're both Paris sites."
- "I thought the dryer was shrinking my clothes. Turns out it was the refrigerator all along."
- "What do you call a factory that makes okay products?" "A satisfactory."
- "Have you heard about the chocolate record player? It sounds pretty sweet."
- "What did the ocean say to the beach?" "Nothing, it just waved."
- "Why do seagulls fly over the ocean?" "Because if they flew over the bay, we'd call them bagels."
- "I only know 25 letters of the alphabet. I don't know y."
- "I asked my dog what's two minus two. He said nothing."



Wisdom to pass on to your children!

- A turtle off the road is a turtle with a future.
- A bird in hand is safer than one overhead.
- Always forgive your enemies; nothing annoys them more.
- When all else fails, read the instructions.
- The other line always moves faster.
- Happiness is nothing more than good health and a bad memory.
- The nicest thing about the future is that it always starts tomorrow.
- The early bird gets the worm but the second mouse gets the cheese.
- Be true to your teeth and they won't be false to you.
- Always remember that you are totally unique. Just like everyone else.
- When you're right, no one remembers. When you're wrong, no one forgets.
- Never argue with an idiot. They drag you down to their level and beat you with experience.
- Tell me what you need and I'll tell you how to get along without it.
- Indecision is the key to flexibility.
- Whether you think you can or think you can't, you are right.
- If at first you don't succeed, skydiving is not for you.
- Whether you think you can or think you can't, you are right.
- Experience is something you don't get until just after you need it.
- Every time we open our mouths, people can look into our minds.
- What soap is to the body, laughter is to the soul.
- Blessed are they who can laugh at themselves for they shall never cease to be amused.
- Don't be so open minded your brains fall out!
- I'd rather regret the things I've done than regret the things I haven't done.



GRAVE BUSINESS!

I want to, first of all, say a massive **'THANK YOU'** to the faithful teams of volunteers who keep and care for our churchyards at St Mary's English Bicknor and Christchurch Forest of Dean.

The comments we receive from families who feel that their loved ones resting place is so well looked after is testimony to the value of this important work that they do!

Thank you so much to the faithful few who give their time so willingly and their skills so well.

We are so privileged to have well known community names alongside 'Historic' and 'War Graves' at the heart of our communities.

Can I ask?

Might there be more folk out there who would like to be a part of looking after the 'Heart and memories' of our communities?

If so, maybe you could be in touch with:

St Mary the Virgin English Bicknore Churchyard: John Furnival:
01594 541566 johnfurnival7710@outlook.com

Christchurch Forest of Dean Churchyard: Trevor Harvey:
01594 835897 harvey0812@btinternet.com

Just a few regular activities

Play Mornings at Christchurch.

For parents and toddlers. A warm welcome, soft play, activities, songs, refreshments and chat.

A totally relaxed morning for families in term time.

Email Barbara at: playatcc@gmail.com

BELL RINGERS

If you are a Ringer, or fancy learning this new skill, the team are always welcoming. Rehearsals each Wednesday evening and ringing every 1st and 3rd Sunday mornings.

Contact John Furnival: 01594 541566
email: ourjohnnyf@aol.com

Coffee and Communion English Bicknor Village Hall 11.00am each Thursday.

A short and welcoming communion service followed by coffee and chat in our easily accessible hall with plenty of parking.

Contact: Helen Rodwell 01594 860205

Christian Discussion Group

An opportunity every fortnight to meet and discuss, question and explore different aspects of the Christian faith with, (obviously) coffee and chat to follow.

Contact: carol 01594 837207

Email at cjturley@hotmail.com

Coffee Cake and Conversation 10.30 –12.00

Every 3rd Saturday morning Friends of Christchurch host a relaxed get together with probably the best cakes available.

Contact: Maggie on 01594 837834

Some of our services

St Mary English Bicknor

9.30am Sunday

Book of Common prayer

Mattins or Communion.

Our beautiful ancient Parish Church is open for private prayer through the week

Christchurch

Parish Church.

11.00am

Contemporary worship

Followed by coffee.

A relaxed and welcoming place

Evensong and Songs of Praise

at Christchurch

6.00 Sunday evening.

Special services through the year;

Remembrance Sunday is

December is packed with a variety of Christmas celebrations:

Our Carol Service with the Berry Hill Silver Band is a lovely candle lit event for the whole community..

The Crib Service on Christmas eve at 4.00pm is a magical event for families as we tell the Christmas story once more.

Mid-night Communion is celebrated in both Churches.

Open Air Songs of Praise takes place each summer and is a real Big Family sing song!

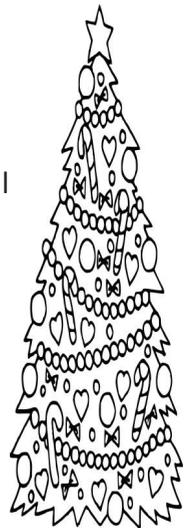
With the spirit of legends who are no longer here
Always touching the surface and undoubtedly near
And a comforting warmth to ward off a chill
Life is worth living up there on the Hill

People that greet you whether your old or your new
Doing those circuits with Spike and with Shoe
Raising some money as they undoubtedly will
To make life a little better up there on the Hill.

How they clapped and they cheered, NHS Heroes all
Volunteers making damn sure none of their number did fall
The Blue Phone box and Defibs thanks to our Dill
To make life last a little longer up there on the Hill

The Pub , shops and Church are all part of your life
There's always someone on hand if your ever in strife
The Orchard run by Bobs team with a passion and no little skill
An oasis of calm and of beauty up there on the Hill.

The seasonal events that bring a truly magical feel.
Jo and her team the tree lights and a free festive meal.



BERRY HILL HORSING AROUND!



We are now back in school following a full curriculum and enjoying using the outdoors of our wonderful school grounds and on-site woodland, in the increasingly autumnal weather. Our Reception Class have joined us at this very exciting time, their first year in Primary School, and our Acorns preschool has also opened it's doors for the first time - with an increasing number of 3 years olds joining for flexible sessions.

Just some of the wonderful activities on offer to our children this term; Elm class are visiting our local gymnastics centre for weekly sessions, and Larch Class have restarted swimming lessons at Freedom Leisure in Lydney. Pine Class will be visiting Skillzone in Gloucester to learn about risks and staying safe, and also the Sculpture Trail at Speech House, whilst Chestnut Class have been invited to visit the local Forester's Forest excavation at Mile End. So wonderful to be learning about what is happening in our community.

Neighbourhood

The Nextdoor Good Neighbourhood Awards have been in full swing over the past few months, collecting nominations from worthy causes, amazing people, and fantastic community groups all across the UK.

This year the awards were expanded to include more categories and bigger prizes with the aim to help support and celebrate neighbourhoods.

The Berry Hill neighbourhood received nomination which is wonderful in itself but we were so pleased to have been told that it has

*officially won the **2021 Good Neighbourhood Award for Neighbourhood of the Year!***



of the Year!

The prize for this award is £1000 to go towards a local beautification project for the area. We will look to engage with our community to see what or where that might be.

Berry Hill of course also means our neighbours in Christchurch, Bicknor, Edge End and Mile End, In fact no matter where your from, if you've played a part in any of the community events, come to the lights, enjoyed what has been going on and just get what Berry Hill has become then you share this tremendous honour with us.

The community spirit and initiatives put together by residents has been nothing short of incredible. This sense of community has been echoed in towns and villages throughout the Forest and I hope that the entire Forest will share the pride in the award that we have in Berry Hill. It is particularly pleasing in this year of all years that The Forests stoicism and indomitable spirit has been recognised near future."



OCT
1



FUND RAISING AND FUN FASHION SHOW BY TERI CHANCE

ST MARY'S CHURCH
English Bicknor

Tickets £8 to include Glass of Wine and Nibbles

Starts at 7 P.M.

Tickets from Daphne 860259 or daphne@drysladefarm.co.uk

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email: madeatthehut@gmail.com
Instagram: [madeatthehut](https://www.instagram.com/madeatthehut)
Website: www.madeatthehut.co.uk

What flies through the jungle singing opera?
The parrots of Penzance.

'Did you hear about the dog who went to a flea
circus?' 'No, what happened?' 'He stole the show.'

OCTOBER

The ancient Roman calendar was based on the lunar cycles, as opposed to our current calendar which is based on the solar cycles. This meant that there were originally 10 months in their calendar, and October was the eighth month. Its name literally translated into “the eighth month” in Latin. In 451 BC the two months of Ianuarius and Februarius were added to the beginning of the calendar, making October the 10th month.

The Anglo-Saxons’ name for October was Winterfylleth, with its name containing the words for winter and full moon respectively. It was named this because winter was said to begin from the first full moon of the month. The Saxons had a name for October, too. Theirs was Wyn Monath, which translated into “wine month” because it was the time of the year for making wine.

If you live in the northern hemisphere, you’ll be rewarded for keeping your eyes to the skies in October, as the Draconid Meteor Shower can be seen. It contains a single comet that is visible exclusively in the northern hemisphere between October 6th and 10th.

An even more impressive meteor shower that is visible in both hemispheres is the Orionid meteor shower, which runs from October 2nd until early November. It is named after Orion as it is usually visible in the same part of the sky as the constellation. At the peak of the meteor shower, as many as 20 meteors are visible every hour.



October has just one birthstone, but with this dazzling stone who needs another? October’s birthstone is the Opal, which was valued by the Ancient Romans as the most priceless of all. The opal comes in a myriad of striking colours that often seem to swirl together and is a symbol of both faithfulness, purity, and hope.

From the Parish records

Graham Victor Long (Dodger).

15th August 1945—24th August 2021.
Funeral at Christchurch Parish Church.
12.00 noon Wednesday 15th September



Jacqui Fudge

Funeral at Christchurch 12.00noon
Thursday 23rd September 2021

If you have lost a loved one please join us for a very special opportunity to remember and give thanks for the lives of those who have shaped and touched our lives.

ALL SOULS SERVICE

Remembering our loved ones

A special time for family, friends and community to come together so we can remember and give thanks for our loved ones who have passed away.

All welcome

Christchurch Parish Church

Sunday 31st October

6.00pm

English Bicknor WI News

We held our second face to face meeting at the beginning of September. Once again it was well attended. Our speaker was Barry Wicks who gave us a lively presentation about the work of a wildlife rescue centre called Oak and Furrows based near Cirencester which also covers our local area.

Our regular activities – our Tuesday walks and walking netball are going well, and once again our craft club is in full swing. Our first craft club meeting was led by a lady from the Wyldewood organisation who helped us design a banner reflecting the life of our WI as well as our beautiful Forest. We are now busy putting the banner together using many different mediums.

We have lots to look forward to which is great after such a difficult time.

Meetings are held at 7pm on the first Thursday of the month at the village hall. For further details please contact Sue Yemm on 01594 860845

Quiz Answers

- 1 Santiago.
- 2 Hawaii - the Kilauea volcano.
- 3 Russia.
- 4 The Mariana Trench is in the Pacific.
- 5 Norway - it's 'where are you from' in Norwegian.
- 6 26.
- 7 St Davids in South Wales.
- 8 South Africa.
- 9 29.
- 10 Lough Neagh in Co Antrim, Northern Ireland.

Looking ahead



CHRISTCHURCH

Christmas Fayre

Saturday 27th November

10.00 - 12.00.

Coffee, home made cakes and Christmas stalls.



St Mary's English Bicknor

**Annual Christmas Bazaar and coffee
morning**

Saturday 4th December





The Friends of St Mary's

Invite you to.....

An Autumn
Pop-In Lunch

At the Village Hall
From 12.00 noon to 2.00 pm
Saturday 9th October 2021

3 course lunch with coffee

£8.00 Adults

£4.00 Children

£20.00 For a family of 4





Walking with Wheels needs volunteer 'Trampions'

The Walking with Wheels project provides all-terrain mobility scooters (called Trampers) for hire in the Forest of Dean, allowing access for people with limited mobility to forest routes including from Forest Holidays to Symonds Yat and Yat Rock. We are delighted to be expanding the service further to include routes from The Speech House to Mallards Pike and the Cyril Hart Arboretum.

We know that our service can be life-changing, allowing people with limited mobility to access the beautiful forest. We are looking for people to be Tramber Champions – Trampions - to help with publicising our service to potential users.

Could you spare a couple of hours to help get the message out to people with low-mobility?
This could include:

- *taking posters and leaflets to local shops, tourist attractions or relevant businesses*
- *supporting the Tramber project at local events*
- *talking to local groups about the Trampers*
- *sharing information on social media*

We're looking for people from across the Forest of Dean and beyond. It's up to you how much time you give and how you get involved – we just want to make sure everyone knows about the service so they can get out and access the forest.

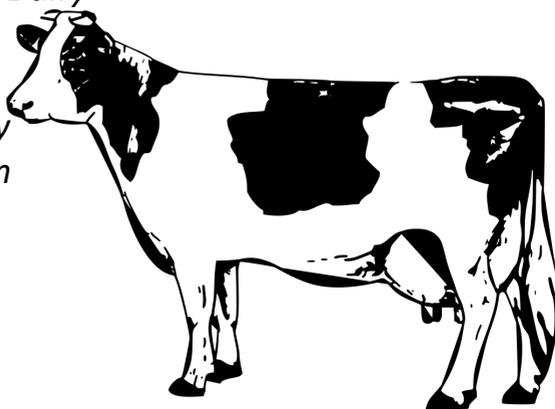
If you'd like to become a volunteer Trampion, please sign up on the Foresters' Forest website or get in touch by email: walkingwithwheels@fvaf.org.uk or call FVAF on 01594 822073



walkingwithwheels@fvaf.org.uk

Farmyard Frolics & Rural Snippets

Some recent B&B guests asked me about our Hereford cattle and then said that they now understand the difference between Beef cows and Dairy cows. According to their understanding, Dairy cows don't produce calves as they are injected to continuously produce milk for human consumption. I was rendered temporarily speechless, before politely putting them straight on that one !!



We lost our 13yr old Sprocker dog Milly in August last year and have been waiting for the ridiculously inflated price of pups to come down. Everytime I found a suitable one for Phil's shooting requirements, he would say that it's still too expensive. Well they have finally dropped but not low enough for tight fisted Phil. Recently I asked him how much longer he has to wait as he's not getting any younger and at this rate will have to hang up his gun before he gets another dog ! He's finally given in and is thrilled with the arrival of Ella, a working Cocker pup.

A Christmas

Musical Entertainment

with the

Drybrook and District Male Voice Choir

plus Special Guests

at

English Bicknor Village Hall

Ross Road, English Bicknor

7.30 p.m. Saturday 27th November 2021

It's been two years since our last Christmas Concert and so we are really looking forward to being back in English Bicknor Village Hall in something approaching normal circumstances. Come and enjoy a varied and entertaining programme of music, including the chance for a festive singalong, in a programme designed to get everyone in a Christmassy mood even if it is only the end of November.

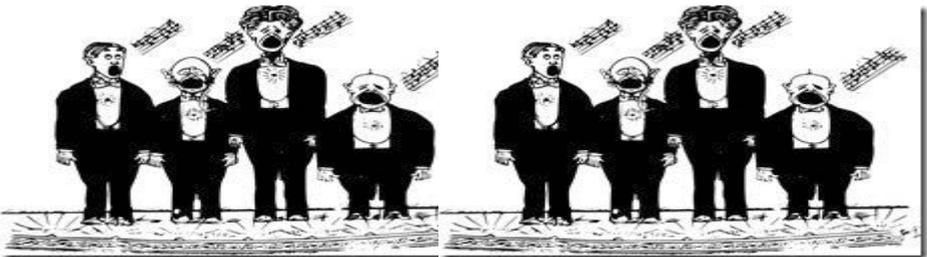
Tickets are £6 and can be obtained in advance from :

Charles Taylor, 07989331189 and 837943

email: charlestaylor2405@gmail.com

or will be available on the door.

Look forward to seeing you there!



THE FOREST FOODBANK

THE FOREST FOODBANK IS OPEN, WE
ARE HERE FOR YOU

Forest Food Bank

**Below are some of the items that are currently
in short supply.**

Tinned Potatoes
UHT Milk
Fish
Jam
Jellies
Tinned Tomatoes
Deodorant
Washing up Liquid
Washing Powder/Liquid
NO PASTA PLEASE.



Donations can be dropped off at the following places

Co-ops in Lydney and Coleford
Lidl in Coleford
Eskimart in Coleway
Vale Butchers in Drybrook
Kevin's Butchers in Mitcheldean
Post Office in Ruardean
The Main Place in Coleford
Town Council Offices in Coleford.

Thank you everyone: your donations are much appreciated

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

Barnwood Trust

Information and help applying for grants from the trust is available from the Forest of Dean Office on 01594 839191

Or visit www.barnwoodtrust.org

Christchurch and English Bicknor churches website

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 01594 781436

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Lydcare

PRACTICAL HELP FOR THOSE IN NEED

**We provide the following services within
most areas of the Forest of Dean**

Community Transport and Outings



**Lunch clubs at English Bicknor
(Tuesday) and The Pludds
(Friday)**

Art Club at

Pludds Village Hall



Benefit Advice

**Signposting: if we can't help we know
who can**

All our services are run by volunteers.

For more information about any of our services, or
to volunteer (you will be very welcome!) please
call our office on **01594 860143**

ERNEST HEAL FUNERAL DIRECTORS



Established 1929

5 South Road, Broadwell, Coleford,
Glos. GL16 7BH
Telephone 01594 832159

Chippenham Funeral Home, Howells Place,
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