

# STAYING CONNECTED

2 Corinthians 5:17  
Therefore, if anyone is in  
Christ, the new creation has  
come: The old has gone, the  
new is here!

## New Year—New Growth

We are already one month into the New Year, a time of new beginnings and new growth.

I was wondering what to put in the Staying Connected this month, but when I was out for a run the other day, it came to me....I had started the new year by signing up to RED January (Rise Every Day in January).

This is the eighth year I have taken part in this, when I start it was 'Run Every Day in January', so that is what I did for 6 years. Last year and this year, I have also included my walking, Pilates and Zumba making sure I get up and exercise every day. It is about achieving something for me and motivating myself to get up and out, not only for my physical well being, but for my mental well-being too. There is a very supportive group on facebook which helps keep us all going and getting up and out. This year, one of my local running friends was taking part too..

This has meant some early morning runs, some evening runs, some daytime runs, whatever time of day, it is good to be out in nature and seeing the 'new growth' popping up.

This got me thinking about my garden, so over the weekend I went out to see whether what I could see—there are definitely signs of spring popping

through the soil as well as budding on the dead branches—new life starting in many parts of the garden. I even spotted about three or four bulbs which had come out of the soil, but despite this, were starting to sprout—not quite sure how, as even the 'roots' were exposed (see photos overleaf) -

Jeremiah 12:2  
You have planted them,  
and they have taken root;  
they grow and bear fruit.  
You are always on their lips  
but far from their hearts.

## ***Sunday Bible Readings from the Lectionary***

### **Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas) -**

#### **2 February**

Malachi 3: 1-5

Psalms 24: 7-end

Hebrews 2: 14-end

Luke 2: 22-40

### **4th Sunday before Lent**

#### **—9 February**

Isaiah 6: 1-8

Psalms 138

I Corinthians 15: 1-11

Luke 5: 1-11

### **3rd Sunday before Lent**

#### **—16 February**

Jeremiah 17:5-10

Psalms 1

I Corinthians 15:12-20

Luke 6: 17-26

### **2nd Sunday before Lent**

#### **—23 February**

Genesis 2: 4b-9, 15-end

Psalms 65

Revelation 4

Luke 8: 22-25

## ***Our next themed readings:***

### **Sunday 2 February**

Rejection of Jesus in hometown

Luke 4: 14-30

### **Sunday 9 February**

Calling first disciples

Luke 5: 1-11

### **Sunday 16 February**

Beatitudes

Luke 6: 17-26

### **Sunday 23 February**

Sending out

Luke 9: 1-6



I think these are my allium bulbs,, but not sure, will be keeping an eye on them. I have now covered them with soil.



I also have various other bulbs starting to grow, being hyacinth, bluebells and daffodils. The snowdrops are already in bloom. **Kate Bestwick**



Matthew 13: 31-32  
The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree.

Some views of Pittville Park on a beautiful frosty sunny morning.



If you do NOT wish to receive copies of *Staying Connected*, please phone the Church Office on 07354 874617

**Our Pastoral Assistants are here**  
*to support the pastoral work in this benefice.*

- *If you would like to chat or need help - you or your family, friends or carers can contact us on your behalf.*
- *If you are going into hospital, moving or going into a care home - so we can keep in touch.*
- *If you can't get to church and would like Home Communion in the comfort of your own home.*

**Contact:** the Church Office 07354 874617  
**Email:** [pastoral.stmichael@gmail.com](mailto:pastoral.stmichael@gmail.com)



## HOME COMMUNION

Our Pastoral Assistants' Team offer anyone who can't get to church a short Home Communion service in the comfort of their own home.

We are also available to pray with those who can't get to church, in their homes, if that is helpful.

Please call the Church Office  
07354 874617

## St Michael's Church Weekday Open for Private Prayer

Monday 11am - 1pm

Tuesday 12pm—1pm

Wednesday 10am - 4pm

Thursday 12pm - 2pm

*(times may occasionally change due to*

*Services or volunteer availability*

*- check with Church Office 07354 874617)*

## Thursday 10.45am Communion Service St Michael's Church

*1st & 3rd Thursdays*

*February 6th 20th*

*March 6th 20th*

## PRAYERfocus

February 14th is St Valentine's Day. It is a day when many people celebrate and remember loved ones especially life partners. Give thanks at this time for the loving relationships you have known and pray for marriages that they will continue to be loving and long lasting.

In Jeremiah 33 v3 we read "I have loved you with an everlasting love". God is here reassuring all who have put their faith in Jesus that, no matter what your present circumstances are, you can be sure that God, the Lord of heaven and earth, the Almighty one has a deep and never ending love for you personally. Think about this truth and let it go deep into your heart and then offer your worship and love back to Him.

Talk with God the Father about the things that are closest to your own heart today and ask Him to bring about the best outcome in each situation.

It is obvious to us all that our world is very broken in so many different ways. Conflicts and disasters seem never ending. Choose one area of need and pray for God's intervention and provision there.

Pray for wisdom for people of power and influence on the world's stage and particularly in our own nation that they may make right decisions that will bring about real differences.

Pray also for God's people in Cleeve and throughout the world that we will all proclaim and demonstrate the amazing love that God offers to the world.

May God surround you today with His love and blessing as you continue to live for Him.

L.D.