

Berrow with Pendock, Eldersfield.
Hollybush and Birtsmorton



Parish Magazine

**UNITED BENEFICE OF BERROW WITH PENDOCK ELDERSFIELD HOLLYBUSH AND
BIRTSMORTON
MINISTRY TEAM**

Rector	The Rev Julie James, Thistledown, Pendock, Glos GL19 3PW (Day Off – Monday)	01531 651795 julie.m.james@btinternet.com
Associate Priest	The Rev Anthea Elston The Plough, Eight Oaks, Castlemorton WR13 6BU (Day Off – Friday)	01684 833278 revanth@eighthoaks.com
Licensed Lay Minister	Mr David Allen	01531 650495
Benefice Administrator	Mrs Mel Roberts The Parish Office, Berrow WR13 6JN Wed and Thu 1.30pm-4.00pm email: berrowbenefice@btinternet.com	01684 833866
Pastoral Visitor	Mrs Cathy Powell-Chandler	01531 635794
Benefice Choir	Mrs Mel Roberts	01684 833866

BERROW WITH PENDOCK

Churchwarden	Mrs E. Rambridge	01531 650230
P.C.C. Secretary	Mr M Knott	01531 650837
Treasurer	Mr A Rambridge	01531 650230

ELDERSFIELD

Churchwardens	Mrs M Williams	01452 780320
	Miss J Peters	01452 840211
Deputy Churchwarden	Mr A Holt	01452 780429
P.C.C. Secretary	Mrs C Powell-Chandler	01531 635794
Tower Captain	Miss J Peters	01452 840211

BIRTSMORTON AND HOLLYBUSH

Churchwardens		
Birtsmorton	POST VACANT	
Hollybush	POST VACANT	
P.C.C. Secretary	POST VACANT	
Treasurer	Mrs S Williams	01531 650431

BERROW VILLAGE HALL

Bookings	Caroline Samsonoff	07709 487883
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MAGAZINE EDITORS & MAGAZINE ADVERTISEMENTS

Brian and Leta Woodcock, "The Larches", 2 Poolhay Close, Link End Road, Corse Lawn GL19 4NY

**New Advertisers: Please write or email BANDL@POOLHAY.PLUS.COM to the Magazine Editors
Copy Deadline: Please submit copy to the Editors by 10th of the month preceding publication**

Dear Friends,

In February, Lent begins. Lent is a period of self-denial, and to begin it well, we need to prepare. We often need time to prepare, or in modern parlance “to psyche ourselves up”. Self-denial isn’t easy. Following Jesus isn’t a walk in the park. Without careful preparation to begin fasting or to consider our Lenten discipline, Ash Wednesday can feel a little like going cold turkey. Self-denial gets a bad press. People prefer these days to talk about “taking up something for Lent”. But even taking up prayer, for example, requires laying something else down.

Self-denial sounds like a hard and unpleasant road, and in some ways it is. To serve God, it is important to have this in mind as we consider the time ahead. We are facing changes within our own households, may be due to ill health or economic factors. There are changes within these parishes. Perhaps the most important thing for us is the bringing together the Berrow Benefice and the Longdon Benefice of Longdon, Castlemorton, Bushley and Queenhill with Holdfast. Together, we can reassert the Church’s welcome to all people, to recognise as neighbours we have a lot in common. The Lord’s call to self-denial is real. If the world is to hear it, the Church must be generous and open, as well as clear. The temptation is to batten down the hatches. Jesus shows us a better way, as he calls everyone to himself. Holy Week and Easter tell us the lengths to which God goes to welcome us. As the recipients of his grace, we can but follow his example.

Jesus' Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5, Luke 6) was central to His teaching and His manifesto for bringing the Kingdom of Heaven to earth. In the Beatitudes, we have Christianity's vision for the world. In the Prayer of St Francis, we have a Christian's job description to achieve it.

Lord, make me an instrument of Thy peace;

Where there is hatred, let me sow love;

Where there is injury, pardon;

Where there is doubt, faith;

Where there is despair, hope;

Where there is darkness, light;

And where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, Grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled, as to console;

To be understood, as to understand;

To be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive;

It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;

And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

Amen.

Rev'd Julie

Berrow and Longdon Benefices

On Sunday, 28th January, I will have been licenced in a service at St Gregory's, Castlemorton, as Assistant Curate of Longdon, Castlemorton, Bushley, Queenhill with Holdfast. This is in addition to being the Rector of the Berrow Benefice of Berrow with Pendock, Eldersfield and Birtsmorton and Hollybush, since 2014.

This is following the retirement of Rev'd Christopher Moss , after serving 27 years in the Longdon Benefice. We wish Chris and his wife, Eileen a happy retirement!

Why this large number of rural parishes with one incumbent?

Circumstances within the Worcester Diocese and the wider Church of England have resulted in less people attending church, less income being available, less people volunteering or offering to posts like Church Wardens, Secretaries or treasurers. The large number of historic church buildings are the responsibility a parish and funds still need to be found to insure, maintain, heat and care for this buildings. In addition, the parishes have to fund the full costs of a full-time incumbent -which is around £85,000. This includes all the costs of housing, pensions, training etc. and the stipend a priest receives. This all has to be raised within the Benefices.

In the rural areas, large numbers of our historic churches are used on a rotational or occasional basis. Many have automatic doors which allow people to enter anytime during the week for quiet reflections.

Having a local priest presence is important in our communities but it is harder in small scattered communities in the Malvern and Upton Deanery in comparison to a more urban setting. I am passionate about our rural ministry and the communities we serve. The challenges are huge and together we will be exploring and navigating a path as we work together as Berrow and Longdon Benefices. Many aspects of our lives overlap and the villages are not far apart. It is about working together more closely and recognising the gifts and resources we do have to shape a way of working that suits our communities we serve. How best can we share and use those resources for not only our church community, our schools but for the wider community? With the help of prayer, worship, meetings, networking and discussions or just reaching out in fellowship, we can discern, with God's help and the Holy Spirit, where the future paths will lead us. Recognising what is possible and what may not be possible for now.

Please do approach me with any questions, queries or positive suggestions as we journey onward.

Rev'd Julie

Malvern and Upton Deanery News

Gary Crellin , Vicar of the parishes of Powick and Guarlford and Madresfield with Newland is the new Area Dean. He is keen to represent both the urban and rural perspectives equally with both having a role in creating a sustainable future for the deanery. Gary is married to Alison and has three grown up daughters, including one currently studying at Liverpool University.

He said: "Having a daughter up in Liverpool has enabled me to become acquainted with the great city of Liverpool, its history and geography as well as its humour: especially the humour of the late great Ken Dodd. One of Ken Dodd's catch phrases - "if you want to make God laugh, tell him your plans" - is very apt, I think. I am sure this is not a comment on my appointment as Area Dean, even though I am surprised and humbled to be asked; I think it is more to do with how we all should engage with the future, together. We need to listen to God's voice of encouragement, bravery and comfort, as well as challenge, as we move forward with our plans for transformation and change and work openly and together to rise to the challenges that are ahead"

Benefice Diary

Wednesday 7th February	Eldersfield PCC	2.00pm at Holts'
Friday 23rd February	Quiz night and Fish and chip supper	Eldersfield Corse Lawn CE Primary School
Wednesday 13th March	APCM	Berrow Village Hall 7pm
Saturday 24th March	Marriage Preparation	Pendock CE Primary School 9.30am-3pm



Bible Study

Tuesday: - Thistledown, Pendock

Tuesday: 13th February, 12th March, 9th April

10.30am Cuppa and biscuit!

Bible reflections, depart 12 noon

Rev. Julie James

Fun Quiz Night – Eldersfield Lawn School



Friday 23rd February 2024



We hope that you can join us for our next Quiz Night in the school hall, following the sell-out last time. At half time we will be serving a Fish and Chip Supper (included), and there will be prizes for the winning team.

Tickets £12.50

On arrival, we will fit you into a team, or you can bring a group of up to 8 yourselves.

Doors open at 6.30pm for a 7 pm start, food at 8 pm and finish around 9.15pm; you are welcome to bring your own drinks. (Let us know in advance of any allergies.)

Tickets available from: Liane Barton (07376 236504), Frieda Griffiths (07879 465853), wendyburr455@gmail.com, Andy Holt (01452 780429), Cathy Powell-Chandler (01531 635794)

We hope that you can come and look forward to hearing from you.

Proceeds to Eldersfield Church



LOCAL HISTORY .
www.bcharchive.org.uk

Over 60 people joined us for our Christmas Tea Party on Thursday, November 30th. Thank you to all who came to support us! Castlemorton Parish Hall buzzed with conversation as guests new and old, from within and beyond the three parishes, took the opportunity to get to know each other or catch up over cups of tea, home-made mince pies and cakes. There was keen interest in the ever-growing local history archive on display and sales of our newly-published BCH Archive Journal (Volume 4) were very brisk - we have already reprinted! Do contact us if you wish to buy a copy of this or any of the previous journals.

As ever, we are very grateful to all who have contributed their memories to the BCH Archive. Happy New Year!



Lent and Easter Services

'Pop up' - Pancakes-Tuesday, Thistledown 12 noon

Ash Wednesday, 14th February 7.30pm Pendock Cross Church

Mothering Sunday 10th March 2024

8.30am Bushley BCP, 10.30am Berrow, 6.30pm Hollybush Palm



Palm Sunday, 24th. March 10.30am, Birtsmorton,

10.30am Longdon HC, 6.30pm Kaleidoscope, Castlemorton.



Easter Sunday -watch this space!

Easter Prayer

Dear Lord

As the dawn breaks, may this Spring Day
Bring us closer to one another in every way.

As the sunrises, we thank you for God's grace
And pray for strength to meet the challenges we face .

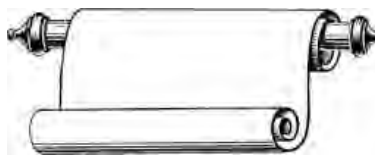
As the dew air falls, we recognise He died for you and me,
On the cross, our sins forgiven, to set us free.

As we celebrate this Easter Day, we step forth with love and care,
To try to shape our communities to be more fair.

Amen



**FROM
THE
REGISTERS**



Funerals and Interments

All Saints Hollybush

13th December Margaret Howell

St John the Baptist Eldersfield

3rd November Roy Vincent Hughes
29th November Carole Rand
19th December Tim Challoner
22nd December Elizabeth Wilkes

Weddings and Blessings

St Thomas of Canterbury with St Peter and St Paul Birtsmorton

25th November Thomas Rollason and Carissa Sharp
27th November Aiden Giampa and Laura Watson

The Children's Society

No child should feel alone

www.childrenssociety.org.uk

Over 170 people gathered in Eldersfield Church on Christmas Eve for the candlelit Crib & Christingle service. 200 candles flickered in the darkness as children and adults sang Carols and listened to the Christmas story once more.

A big thank you to all those who have contributed to The Children's Society over the year. The collections at the Christmas Eve service, the 9 Lessons and Carols and the Carols at Farmer's Arms raised an amazingly generous £960! Many thanks to Neil Gardner who invited everyone to celebrate and join in the Christmas spirit. Nearly all the Houseboxes have been collected in and counted and together with the Christingle, Carols and 9 Lessons service the total raised is heading for over £2000! This is a wonderful amount and one that reflects the generosity of people living locally in support of the UK's most neglected, abused and unloved children. The ongoing support continues to make a real difference to young lives and enables The Children's Society to continue its vital and life changing work. Last year alone over 10,000 children's lives were transformed and made safe; many were rescued from dangerous, life-threatening situations, escaping from being groomed and forced into delivering drugs and collecting money in frightening places while the adult gang members hid anonymously behind them.

There are so many success stories of children's lives being changed for the better, establishing real hope for their futures, thanks to people like you. If you would like to find out more please go to the website (listed above.) If you would like to volunteer to support the work of The Society, or to arrange a direct debit, please contact Andy Holt.

Thank you for your generosity (awholt@btinternet.com)



Volunteer help needed!

Do you have a couple of hours a month to help the team with grass cutting, strimming etc?



If so, we need your help at **Eldersfield Churchyard**. We arrange times between us when the grass needs cutting & strimming and do as much (or as little) as we feel able to do. It's quite hard work but rewarding to see such a beautiful area looking good for its many visitors. If you would like to find out more, please contact Andy Holt 01452 780429 awholt@btinternet.com

– Very much looking forward to hearing from you!



Thank you to all those across the Benefice who have contributed to the Church Mission Society's work in the Mid Africa Mission this year: the house boxes collected £240 (incl.giftaid) to support their work. CMS is at the heart of communities across the world where there is real suffering and need; their dedicated and brave staff work tirelessly to help those living in poverty. Thank you for your support: if you would like to donate or find out more please go to churchmissionsociety.org Thank you.

Recipe of the month - February

Valentine Day Biscuits

Use any favourite plain biscuit recipe or the one below.

Ingredients

75gm (3oz) butter
100gm (4oz) castor sugar
150gm (6oz) self-raising flour
1 egg yolk
1 teaspoon milk
Zest of ½ lemon, finely ground
Pinch of salt
1 drop of vanilla essence
Glacé icing (made with lemon juice)

Method

Cream the sugar and butter. Add the beaten egg yolk, vanilla and milk. Add all the dry ingredients and knead into a stiff dough. Allow the dough to rest for 10 minutes in a fridge then roll out on a floured board to 1 ½ cm thickness and cut out heart shaped biscuits. Prick well and lift onto a baking sheet which has been greased and floured. Bake in a moderate oven (Gas mark 4, 165 C, 350 F) for about 20 minutes until just golden. Cool and remove to a wire rack. When cold, ice the biscuits with glacé icing and decorate suitably (e.g., outline in red icing / use red “sprinkles”).

Easter Word Search

N	L	P	T	K	V	C	L	H	C	K	J	F	R	B	C	V
M	K	V	E	S	U	S	G	P	R	D	W	K	N	M	R	K
Z	E	J	D	W	T	X	M	D	Q	W	P	I	M	L	J	R
T	B	S	L	R	L	R	Q	J	B	B	L	N	L	X	C	I
G	H	N	S	L	E	L	N	E	B	E	R	Q	V	R	H	S
V	M	I	Q	I	C	S	D	T	G	L	T	L	O	O	K	E
H	T	L	R	M	A	I	U	N	Y	M	C	W	L	P	T	N
O	V	X	H	D	F	H	A	R	R	R	N	Y	F	N	Y	T
W	M	L	B	I	D	D	Q	R	O	A	N	H	B	N	P	
H	J	B	R	P	L	A	R	V	F	E	O	M	R	X	S	M
T	W	C	E	F	M	E	Y	T	A	I	C	B	L	A	C	Y
P	A	P	I	V	T	P	H	T	T	D	B	T	V	Q	H	T
S	N	Q	R	S	O	D	M	A	Z	X	N	I	I	P	G	V
H	N	N	A	R	R	I	V	R	W	R	O	U	W	O	W	C
Z	N	E	L	N	N	L	W	J	W	R	T	R	S	L	N	K
N	V	J	S	V	A	E	M	P	T	Y	T	O	M	B	W	K
H	Q	P	E	S	S	G	O	O	D	F	R	I	D	A	Y	W

Angel

Cross

Crown of Thorns

Easter

Empty Tomb

Good Friday

Holy

Hope

Jesus

King

Love

Mary

Mercy

Resurrection

Risen

Sacrifice

Salvation

Simply

Savior

Third Day



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ROSEMARY PHILIPSON-STOW (1934 – 2023)

Rosemary was the longest serving member of the local PCCs. First, of course, she was a member of the Pendock PCC. A letter typed by Rosemary in the 1960s has her as the PCC Secretary, supporting her mother Mary who was the Churchwarden for really all of her lifetime.

Minutes from the Berrow with Pendock PCC from 1993 make reference to her being the Chair of the Pendock Parish Council. Rosemary also represented the Church Community in the wider grouping of the Deanery as a Synod representative.

If ever a query came up at one of our PCC meetings about some local matter, the cry would go up – ask Rosemary. She was steeped in a love of this place and of farming and country matters. I remember clearly though that when I started to get involved in the church and especially the complex application to the Heritage Lottery Fund, she was appreciative of all I was doing. And so we may associate Rosemary with an ‘old order’ I felt she did have an understanding of how different things had become and how the relationships between church and community had changed.

At PCC meetings, Rosemary ensured that the Old Church Pendock, which she loved so much, remained on the agenda, as it were, though it is in the care of the Churches Conservation Trust. It is to Rev’d Julie James’ great credit that she has been such a good friend to that organisation and overseen the maintenance of the churchyard. Rosemary was always pleased that the early morning Easter service continued to take place there.

Although I knew something of Rosemary’s dedication and skill as a horse breeder, it was really interesting to read a detailed and warm appreciation of her very significant contribution to the Welsh Pony and Cob Society, and the promotion and preservation of this breed. It is no surprise that she inherited her love of the breed from her parents, nor that the name used was ‘Pendock’. Her knowledge and expertise meant she was in demand as a judge, officiating all over the world.

You’ll find the complete tribute online easily by either entering Rosemary’s full name or going to the website of the Welsh Pony and

Cob Society.

Here also is the link –

<https://wpcs.uk.com/news/rosemary-philipson-stow/>

And there's a really super photo of Rosemary at an event, standing next to the Duke of Edinburgh, which must be much prized by her family and friends.

The service I most associate with Rosemary is Evensong, which latterly she attended at either St Faith's, Berrow or All Saints, Hollybush. It is perhaps apposite that another strong woman – Queen Elizabeth I - also loved Evensong and indeed really managed to save it in the post-Reformation period. The discipline of the service, the traditional words, maybe even the knowing when to stand, and when to sit - all these represent in some ways the discipline and the devotion to the duty of playing your part which shaped Rosemary's life.

One of the most beautiful hymns is often sung at Evensong –

The day thou gavest, Lord, is ended,
The darkness falls at thy behest;

Line after line reflects somehow an old certainty, with a cadence in the meaning and the tune that reminds me of the totality which Rosemary felt for this place. Her loyalty to its welfare inspired others who will miss her keenly.

Members of the PCC gave her a line drawing of the Old Church by John Woodyatt as a leaving present and she was very touched to receive that, as well as our sincere thanks for her faithfulness.

Elisabeth Rambridge
Churchwarden of Berrow with Pendock

Castlemorton Environmental Group



Beauty and the Beast: Creating a Garden for Drought



CEG invite you to a talk by Jane Jordan.

After moving to a new house in a large plot in Hanley Castle, I had the opportunity to create my own garden from scratch. Being very aware of the impact our changing climate is already having in our gardens, I decided to put resilience at the heart of my plant choices. This is the story of how I made the front garden, filling it with a diverse range of drought-tolerant plants to provide beauty and interest through the seasons.

**Castlemorton Parish Hall Thursday 29th
February at 7:30pm**

Entry £2:50 with tea or coffee and biscuits provided.

This event is sponsored by Castlemorton Parish Council



Community 'Drop In'

Due to my increasing commitments and lack of folk offering to volunteer, please note that the next 'Drop In' at Pendock C.E. Primary School Hall will be on **TUESDAY 27th February-9.30-11.00am**

Many thanks to all those who have attended and supported.

Please can we have some help if more sessions required.

Rev'd Julie James



PLUS Upton-upon-Severn Foodbank, The Baptist Church, Old Street, Tewkesbury and Ledbury.

Thank you for the generous food bank donations given through our church services and from our two local schools at Pendock and Eldersfield. The money donations were also gratefully received.

If you can, please continue your generous contributions in these times of rising costs for everyone. People really appreciate both food, toiletries and money. The referral of families to the food banks is unfortunately greater in numbers, so please support.

Rev'd Julie James

In January 2023 the Church of England announced the creation of a £100m fund to address issues related to its involvement with slavery. This raised some hats; rather more eyebrows; and a plethora of questions.

The Church Commissioners for England ('CC') manages a fund of shares and property for the Church of England. It was established in 1948 and combined the assets of two earlier funds, one being the Queen Anne's Bounty, which was set up in 1704. Today's fund is very successful; it has grown to £10.3bn and now spends around £180m pa on charitable church purposes (*'supporting diocese and the local church'*) and a further £117m pa on clergy pensions.

In 2019 the thought occurred to the CC that the funds inherited from the Queen Anne's Bounty might have been invested in slavery and that research was needed. A report was published in January 2023.

Two matters of concern were identified. The Queen Anne's Bounty had at some time invested in the South Sea Company, which had been set up in order to trade in slaves and which had in fact transported some 34,000 people from Africa to the Americas for this purpose. The second concern was that there was a possibility, but no proof, that benefactions had been received from donors who themselves had received money from slavery.

The CC duly announced that it was *'deeply sorry'* for its predecessor fund's links with transatlantic chattel slavery. It stated that *'Chattel slavery, where people made in the image of God have had their freedom taken away to be owned and exploited for profit was, and continues to be, a shameful and horrific sin.'* It said that it would *'address some of the past wrongs'* and established a new impact investment fund *'to invest in a better and fairer future for all, particularly for communities affected by historic slavery'*. Over a period of nine years a total of £100m would be set aside for this fund.

All very fine and commendable. Or is it? Some questions ...

Are we to understand from the commitment to *invest in a better and fairer future for all* that this is a novel approach to investing? I would be very surprised, however, and greatly disappointed, if that were the case; it is something I hope the CC has been doing for all of its existence. But then we note – possibly with dismay and consternation - that this will address only *some* of the past wrongs, thereby leaving other wrongs unaddressed. Is it the intention of the CC to address all wrongs of the last few centuries, or does it

see some wrongs as requiring to be addressed, others as sweepable under the carpet? How does it decide which is which?

The lives of 34,000 people were blighted by their being enslaved and this fund will be established at £100m; that represents £2,900 per person. Statutory redundancy pay in the UK, after a lifetime's work, is set at £19,000. Why does the CC think its proposal is adequate?

Adequate or not, the money for the fund is not new; it will be taken from existing funds. Which activities will be penalised in order to assist the new beneficiaries? Is it fair to divert money from the purposes for which it was subscribed to other purposes not foreseen by the donors? Could the CC tell us where these savings are to be made – will the local church be less well supported, or clergy pensions less well funded, than might otherwise have been the case?

The CC wants to create a *fairer future for all*. It seems to me very *unfair* to select for investment people, not on the basis of their need, but because of who their father was – or more accurately their great-(x3 or 4)-grandfather.

But who, and where, are these *communities affected by historic slavery*? One community undeniably affected very adversely by this trade was the bankers of the City of London: they lost a fortune when the South Sea Company bubble collapsed. However, I suspect that they are not among the intended recipients of the CC's largesse. And given that there was never slavery in England, these communities must therefore presumably all be outside England. If it is intended that the descendants of slaves be helped then very many, perhaps even a majority, are in the USA. Is it right that the CC should spend money assisting some of the richest people on earth?

And three other questions, tantalisingly, remain unaddressed.

Why did the officers of the Queen Anne's Bounty think it right to invest in the South Sea Company, then assisting chattel slavery - a *shameful and horrific sin*? Did they know of the activities of the company and, if they knew, did they think they constituted an horrific sin?

In 'addressing' this issue the CC is taking action which its predecessors did not think appropriate for *three whole centuries*. What has changed?

A sinner who repents in some measure redeems himself. The United Kingdom did more than any other country, and acted earlier than any other country, to bring slavery to an end. In what way did the Church, and in particular the Queen Anne's Bounty, assist or oppose this endeavour?

Perhaps the Church Commissioners should issue another report.

Parish Magazine – Subscription Renewal

Many thanks to those who have renewed their subscriptions promptly. Despite increasing printing costs over the past few years, we have held the subscription at £5 for 2024, but it is vital that we maintain a steady income stream to secure the future of the magazine. If you have not already done so, please renew your subscription as soon as possible.

Many thanks

The Editors

Please complete the **Renewal Form** below and hand it to your magazine distributor with your subscription. Although we can still accept cheques (payable to **Berrow Pendock and Eldersfield**), the preferred option is **Bank Transfer (BACS)** and the details are on the form below.

Parish Magazine – Subscription Renewal Form

I / we wish to renew my / our Parish Magazine subscription for 2024 and would like it to be
(Delete as appropriate)

Printed copy to be delivered to address below

or

Electronic copy to the following email address.....

Bank details for BACS – please use your surname as reference

Business Account name: Berrow, Pendock & Eldersfield

Account number: 00006926

Sort code: 30-59-30

Name.....

Address.....

.....

.....



Weddings-Please check the website. www.berrowbenefice.org.uk

At present, we are holding a rotation of services each Sunday. Please check for details on the website or contact us. For the 'qualifying attendance' to be married in a church, you need to attend for a minimum of 6 months, once a month.

How we get you legally wed

We are legally entitled to marry you in a Church of England church through the publication of banns, read 3 times before the wedding date. We ask you to contact your local parish church and arrange when the banns are to be read 3 times there too. A **Marriage Document** is now signed at the church ceremony since the rules changed on May 4th 2021 and then you apply for a Marriage Licence through the **Worcester Registry Office**. We will give you all the details.

Common License

In very special cases, you can apply for a Common License to marry with us. Please do seek an early explanation and the process involved.

Civil Ceremony followed by a Blessing in Church

If you are unable to attend for 6 months to qualify, then you could have Registrar a civil ceremony first. We can then offer you a Church blessing of your marriage which is as similar to a full wedding as we can make it.

Conclusion

Rev'd Anthea and I are ready to help you during this decision making process. Please do discuss the options with us and your wedding venue hosts. We do try to meet your expectations and make this a special day. Do try and attend our marriage preparation day. We try to answer your questions, look at the wedding day itself and looking ahead to the future.

Be safe and keep healthy! May your love for one another be strengthened and bind you closer than ever during the challenges of our world.

Rev'd Julie James



Baptism (or Christening)

The baptism service is for a child or adult. As an adult, you make the decision and the promises. A child has adults (godparents) who make decisions and promises on behalf of a child.

At the point you are baptized, you simply have water poured on your head. If you are considering being baptized or for a member of your family, do talk to us as we will be delighted to help. Baptism can occur during the usual church services which rotate around the Benefice or at a time for just you, your family and friends.

Rev'd Julie James



With you every step of the way

Funerals

If you wish to have a church service, please contact the priest to check dates as soon as possible. With your chosen Funeral Director, all bookings and other arrangements can proceed for you, the family and with the help and support of the clergy during this difficult time. We are still requesting the wearing of face coverings inside the buildings.

If you wish to have a burial in the churchyards at St John's, Eldersfield. St Faith's, Berrow or All Saints, Hollybush, the deceased person must have been resident in that Parish. Reservations (which last for 25 years) can be made by applying for a faculty which is a formal legal process and which we can help guide you through.

The Diocese of Worcester has issued guidelines for the erection of memorials in the churchyard. Please contact a local Stonemason who will have these details.



Pastoral care is one aspect of a priest's role. The word *pastor* comes from the Latin word for "shepherd." Caring for a person who is struggling with a difficulty, being present during a time of pain, praying with someone in a crisis—these are the moments when we need to know someone can come alongside us from the church community.

Most people only visualise a priest working on a Sunday. The reality is that preparing for Sunday services, Bible Study, and daily prayers are only a small part of my role. Looking after several churches, being on many different committees including being a school governor for our two local schools, engaging in a large wedding ministry, plus occasional offices like funerals and baptisms, means that my working week is very busy.

The Pastoral Visitor is Mrs Cathy Powell-Chandler. Part of her role is to co-ordinate pastoral visitors within our church communities. If you would specifically like me to visit you, then please indicate this by contacting me direct or via one of the church officers, all details of which are in the magazine. In a caring community, we all look to see whether our neighbours need or wish to accept our help.

Rev'd Julie James

SERVICES IN THE UNITED BENEFICE OF BERROW WITH PENDOCK, ELDERSFIELD AND BIRTSMORTON AND HOLLYBUSH

Would readers and intercessors themselves please arrange an appropriate replacement if they are unable to be present on the dates shown

25 th March Monday of Holy Week	Zoom	7 pm	Compline	TBA	TBA	TBA
26 th March Tuesday of Holy Week	Zoom	7pm	Compline	TBA	TBA	TBA
27 th March Wednesday of Holy Week	Zoom	7pm	Compline	TBA	TBA	TBA
28 th March Maundy Thursday	Zoom	7pm	Compline	TBA	TBA	TBA
29 th March Good Friday	Hollybush Church	2pm	Good Friday Meditation	TBA	TBA	TBA
31 st March Easter Day	Pendock Old Church? Castlemorton Church Eldersfield Church	6.30am 10.30am 10.30am	Sunrise Service Holy Communion Holy Communion	Isaiah 25. 6 – 9 Acts 10. 34 – 43 Isaiah 25. 6 – 9 Acts 10. 34 – 43 Isaiah 25. 6 – 9 Acts 10. 34 – 43	Ruth Coates TBA Mel Roberts	--- TBA Cathy P-Chandler

Please Note: Compline will be held on Zoom Every Friday at 7.00 pm
 Details of how to join Zoom services are published on the Berrow Benefice website
<https://berrowbenefice.org.uk/using-phone-church>

SERVICES IN THE UNITED BENEFICE OF BERROW WITH PENDOCK, ELDERSFIELD AND BIRTSMORTON AND HOLLYBUSH

Would readers and intercessors themselves please arrange an appropriate replacement if they are unable to be present on the dates shown

Date	Venue	Time	Service	Reading	Reader	Intercessor
3rd March 3rd Sunday of Lent	Eldersfield Church	8.30am	BCP Holy Communion	Exodus 20. 1-17 1 Corinthians 1. 18-25	Janet Peters	---
	Eldersfield School	10.30am	Café Church	TBA	TBA	TBA
	Queenthill Church	10.30am	Holy Communion	Exodus 20. 1-17 1 Corinthians 1. 18-25	TBA	TBA
10th March 4th Sunday of Lent	Bushley Church	8.30am	BCP Holy Communion	Numbers 21. 4-9 Ephesians 2. 1-10	TBA	TBA
	Berrow Church	10.30am	Mothering Sunday service	TBA	Elisabeth Rambridge	Doug Braund
	Hollybush Church	6.30pm	Evensong	Exodus 6. 2-13 Romans 5. 1-11	David Allen	Celia Greatwood
17th March 5th Sunday of Lent	Pendock Cross Church	8.30am	BCP Holy Communion	Jeremiah 31. 31-34 Hebrews 5. 5-10	Andrew Rambridge	---
	Eldersfield Church	10.30am	All Age Worship	TBA	TBA	TBA
	Castlemorton Church	10.30am	Holy Communion	Jeremiah 31. 31-34 Hebrews 5. 5-10	TBA	TBA
24th March Palm Sunday	Birtsmorton Church	10.30am	Holy Communion	Mark 11. 1-11 Psalm 118. 1-2, 19-end	Bob James	Martin Knott
	Longdon Church	10.30am	Holy Communion	Mark 11. 1-11 Psalm 118. 1-2, 19-end	TBA	TBA
	Castlemorton Church	6.30pm	Kaleidoscope	TBA	TBA	TBA

SERVICES IN THE UNITED BENEFICE OF BERROW WITH PENDOCK, ELDERSFIELD AND BIRTSMORTON AND HOLLYBUSH

Would readers and intercessors themselves please arrange an appropriate replacement if they are unable to be present on the dates shown

25 th February 2 nd Sunday of Lent	Hollybush Church	10.30am	Holy Communion	Genesis 17. 1-7, 15-16 Romans 4. 13—end	Bob James	Martin Knott
	Longdon Church	10.30am	Holy Communion	Genesis 17. 1-7, 15-16 Romans 4. 13—end	TBA	TBA
	Castlemorton Church	6.30pm	Kaleidoscope	TBA	TBA	TBA

Please Note: Compline will be held on Zoom Every Friday at 7.00 pm
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SERVICES IN THE UNITED BENEFICE OF BERROW WITH PENDOCK, ELDERSFIELD AND BIRTSMORTON AND HOLLYBUSH

Would readers and intercessors themselves please arrange an appropriate replacement if they are unable to be present on the dates shown

Date	Venue	Time	Service	Reading	Reader	Intercessor
4th February 2nd Sunday before Lent	Eldersfield Church	8.30am	BCP Holy Communion	Proverbs 8. 1, 22–31 Colossians 1. 15–20	Janet Peters	---
	Eldersfield School	10.30am	Café Church	TBA	TBA	TBA
	Queenhill Church	10.30am	Holy Communion	Proverbs 8. 1, 22–31 Colossians 1. 15–20	TBA	TBA
11th February Sunday next before Lent	Bushley Church	8.30am	BCP Holy Communion	2 Kings 2. 1–12 2 Corinthians 4. 3–6	TBA	TBA
	Berrow Church	10.30am	Holy Communion	2 Kings 2. 1–12 2 Corinthians 4. 3–6	Mel Roberts	Doug Braund
	Hollybush Church	6.30pm	Evensong	1 Kings 19. 1–16 2 Peter 1. 16–end	Liz Lean	Catthy P-Chandler
14th February Ash Wednesday	Pendock Cross Church	7.30pm	Holy Communion for Ash Wednesday	Isaiah 58. 1–122 2Corinthians5.20b–6.10	Elisabeth Rambridge	Ann Ward
18th February First Sunday of Lent	Pendock Cross Church	8.30am	BCP Holy Communion	Genesis 9. 8–17 1 Peter 3. 18–end	Andrew Rambridge	---
	Berrow Church	10.30am	All Age Worship	TBA	TBA	TBA
	Castlemorton Church	10.30am	Holy Communion	Genesis 9. 8–17 1 Peter 3. 18–end	TBA	TBA



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