

April 2024

50p

The Benefices
of Berrow and Longdon



Parish Magazine

THE BENEFICES OF BERROW AND LONGDON

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@eightoaks.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	Mr A Holt	01452 780429
	Miss J Peters	01452 840211
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,

Mark the Evangelist's feast day, celebrated on April 25th, is traditionally known as the author of the Gospel of Mark. There is little known about the man but it is said he founded the Church of Alexandria.

At some point, it is believed that Mark was Peter's interpreter and travel companion, writing down the sermons of Peter, which became the gospel according to Mark. His symbol is the winged lion because according to legend, he was thrown to the Lions, who refused to attack or eat him. Instead the Lions slept at his feet while he petted them. When the Romans saw this, they released him, impressed by this sight.

One of the Synoptic Gospel writers, his accounts are very vivid. There is the story of the rich young man in Mark 10:17-22, the cure of the woman with haemorrhage and the raising of Jairus' daughter Mark 5:21-43. The story of the calming of the storm Mark 4:35-41.

Speaking about our faith is never easy and in Mark's Gospel we see the disciples constantly struggling, not understanding, and being bewildered by events. It challenges our belief systems about God in the Passion story, who comes not in power and glory but through the crucified Christ. In these uncertain times, it is difficult to see what the near future might bring. The disciples give an example of not losing faith despite the difficulties. They did carry on Jesus' mission. We have hope too for the future because we trust that God has not abandoned us.

April is when we see signs of growth all around us. During Lent, we looked to open ourselves to God, and also looking for ways to plant new seeds of God's Kingdom in our community.

We are the people of the resurrection. Hope is something that springs up when it is not expected. That may be true in your life as it was in the lives of those disciples all those years ago. When you feel like despairing, when you feel that there is no possibility of a way forward in your own situation, look to the hope that Jesus brought on the first Easter morning. And if you think that it is most unlikely that there is any hope for you, remember that the resurrection was a complete surprise for the disciples, so that they could scarcely believe their own eyes.

Easter is for all Christians a time of hope. As we celebrate the raising of Jesus from the dead so we are celebrating the Christian hope that there is life beyond this life for all those people who follow Jesus. But more than that, we are celebrating the possibility of positive outcomes when they seem most unlikely.



Rev'd Julie



A prayer for guidance and hope

Heavenly Father.

In our times of darkness and uncertainty,

Know that we can turn to you and ask that you shine a light into the darkness.

Help me to trust in you when the way forward seems unclear.

Help me to see possibilities ahead and guide my steps.

Grant me the patience to wait upon your timings.

May the scriptures give me a refuge and a strength to meet the challenges ahead.

Your love is my rock amid the trials and tribulations of life.

May I find hope in your presence and courage in your promises.

In Jesus's name, I pray,

Amen

Benefice Diary

Mon. 8th April	LCBQ meeting	Castlemorton CE Primary School 2.30pm.
Tues. 16th April	Deanery Synod	7.30pm St Peters , Powick
Wed 17th April	Standing Committee	2.30pm Pendock Cross
Wed 24th April	Berrow with Pendock PCC	7.30pm at Knott's
Sat.27th April	Concert at Castlemorton	Contact Castlemorton for details
Tuesday, 30th April	APCM for Longdon Benefice	7.00pm at Longdon. TBC
Wed 1st May	Birtsmorton and Hollybush PCC	2.30pm at Anthea's
Sat. 4th May	Plant Sale and Raffle	10-12 noon All Saints, Hollybush
Thurs 9th. May	Eldersfield PCC	2pm at Holt's
Tuesday, 4th June	Queenhill with Holdfast PCC	7.30pm at Liz's
Thur, 6th June	80th Anniversary D.Day Landings	6pm St Peter's , Bushley TBA Other celebrations!
Fri.14th June	Hill Singers	Castlemorton TBA
Sat. 29th June	Fundraising Events	TBC: Queenhill and Eldersfield

If you have any additional dates, please contact Mel Roberts
or Rev'd Julie James.



Bible Study

Tuesday: - Thistledown, Pendock

Tuesday: 9th April, 14th May, 9th July

10.30am Cuppa and biscuit!

Bible reflections, depart 12 noon

Rev. 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

Anthea's Next Big Adventure!

A huge thank you to all of you who have supported me in my mad endeavours so far – by sponsoring me when I did my 150 mile walk or by buying a copy of Boots and Roots – still available in Ledbury Books and Maps – or from me! And thank you to those who, having bought it, have actually read it, and said lovely things about it – you are very kind.

So what's next? Well, I hit the grand old age of 60 this year – surely retirement must be beckoning??? But before then, I wanted to set myself another appropriate challenge. As ever, my niece and personal trainer Hannah was keen to help and suggested running 60 10Ks for my 60th year. And for those of you who still work in miles that's 60 x 6.2 miles, a grand total of 372 miles or from here to approximately Aberdeen.....I've done 9 of them so far, 51 to go. My next one should be the Pendock Spring Chicken Run, a fine way to hit my first milestone and move into double figures.

And then I thought, if I was to try to raise a bit of money for a charity, that would give me another incentive. So I've set up another justgiving page, for the benefit of St Richard's Hospice, which you'll find here –

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/anthea-elston-60at60>

- or feel free to give me the cash and I will pass it onto St Richard's as I know not everyone is online.

Follow the Justgiving page for regular updates, and I'll aim to do a magazine page of edited highlights each month – wish me luck!

Rev Anthea



The Children's Society

This year I plan to tackle a challenge of walking from around Painswick to Winchcombe along the Gloucestershire and Cotswold Ways and to raise much needed funds for The Children's Society. It's going to involve a lot of steep climbs (6000ft combined gradients) and is around 24 miles - I hope to complete it in one day (if my knees survive!) It will be the toughest challenge I have done so far - and I will need lots of support and encouragement to make it!

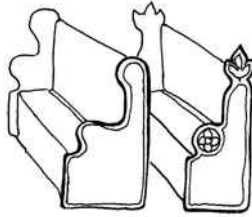
If you feel able to donate that would help the Society continue its essential work supporting children who are desperate need of help – those who are neglected, abused, ignored and many with their lives in real danger. So much progress has been made in helping young vulnerable people escape from the clutches of County Lines drug gangs and having their childhoods restored, but this is now threatened by a lack of resources. Please will you help The Society continue its important work and give the children their childhoods back? Your support will change lives. I have set up a Justgiving page at [justgiving.com/page/andy-holt-1709720412711](https://www.justgiving.com/page/andy-holt-1709720412711)

(Sorry it's so long and needs rewriting in the search bar)

or if you prefer to use cash/cheques rather than go online, tell me and I can pay that in for you. Anything you can give will help young people escape from a life of misery.

Thank you. Andy Holt. awholt36@gmail.com

Take a pew ... (or two!)



Eldersfield Church

No ... they're not for sale! Have you got a few spare minutes a month to clean & polish a couple of pews in this beautiful ancient building? They have exquisite carving with 16th century linen fold panelling on the pew ends and would look even better with some extra care and attention. Cleaning materials supplied!

Anytime to suit you – look forward to hearing from you. 01452 780429.



Quiz Night held on Friday 23rd February.

It was good to see over 60 people at the last Quiz Night held at Eldersfield Lawn School. In a hotly contested evening the result was close with the winning team only one point ahead of nearest competitors. A large box with a number of bottles was awarded to the winners.

We're grateful to the talented Nick Burr for a live performance on guitar for the Music Round which certainly tested our memories! Excellent fish and chips were freshly cooked in the mobile kitchen on site by the Newent Tudor Fish Shop at half time. Many thanks to everyone who helped make the evening so much fun. Thanks also must go to all who came along and supported the evening, especially with the raffle which helped make the evening's total rise to just over £600 for urgent maintenance at the church. A super result.

Here are some genuine definitions of angels by young school children

Angels talk to you all the way to heaven, mostly about where you went wrong before you died.

They have a lot to do and are kept very busy. If you lose a tooth, they fly in the window and leave money under your pillow. Then, when it gets cold, they fly south for the winter.

Some angels are in charge of helping heal sick animals and pets, but if they can't make them better, they help the child get over it.

My Grandma's gone to be an angel. She'll be really good at it cos she's had loads of practice looking after me.

Aren't they lovely?

More next month!

Angela Gabbott

Weather Notes

by the Clerk of the Weather

On January 23rd at 20:28 UTC, I recorded the maximum temperature for the month of 14.4°C. The minimum for the month was -9.4°C at 04:00 UTC on 17th January, and rainfall total for the month 43.8mm

GREGORY STEWARD

Professional Tenor

Presents

An Evening of Classical Favourites

and Songs from the Shows

at

St. JAMES'S STAUNTON CHURCH

on

SATURDAY 20th APRIL 2024

at 7.00p

Tickets £12.00p

Including light refreshments

To book contact:-

Malcolm Harley - 01452 840391

Pauline - paulinetrigg@btinternet.com



The countryside charity
Herefordshire



Castlemorton Environmental Group

Can Our Rivers Survive?



CEG invite you to a talk by Andrew McRobb, Trustee
& Director CPRE Herefordshire.

The talk will explain CPRE's work to gather information on the
pollution in the river Wye catchment area and inform the
Environment Agency.

Andrew will explain where we stand today and action we can all
take to help prevent pollution.

**Castlemorton Parish Hall Thursday 25th
April at 7:30pm**

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

This event is sponsored by Castlemorton Parish Council

Recipe of the month - April

Rhubarb and Ginger Pudding/Cake

Ingredients

4 sticks of young, pink rhubarb, washed and cut into 1" pieces
2 eggs
4 oz sugar + a little soft brown sugar
4 oz butter/margarine
4 oz self-raising flour + a pinch of salt
Vanilla essence
Ginger to taste (say, 1 teaspoon of powdered ginger)

Method

Prepare the rhubarb and toss in some of the soft brown sugar and some of the ginger. Prepare a 7½ / 8 inch cake tin with a removable bottom. Set the oven at 375°F / 190°C / gas mark 5. Cream the butter and sugar and add the beaten eggs and vanilla essence. Fold in the sifted self-raising flour and ginger. Pour half the mixture into the cake tin, then add a layer of rhubarb, avoiding the edge of the cake mixture. Pour over the remaining mixture. Sprinkle with brown sugar. Bake for 25-35 minutes. When cooked, either:

(1) To use as a pudding, remove from tin and serve with custard/cream/ice cream, or

(2) Cool whole cake and slice when cold as a moist cake (You may need a pastry fork to eat it!!)

The cake may be frozen, but ensure it is well defrosted before serving.

My name is _____

Spring Flower Word Find

Find and circle the words.

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

APRIL
BABY ANIMALS
BASEBALL
BEES
BIRDS

BLOSSOMS
BUTTERFLY
FLOWERS
FRESH AIR
GARDEN

GRASS
KITES
MARCH
MAY
NEST

PLANT
PUDDLES
RAIN
SUNSHINE
TULIPS

UMBRELLA
WINDY
WORMS

If you want to know what *ethical investing* means it is natural to turn to the Church Commissioners (CC), the body which invests £10bn of Church of England money. It invests that money 'ethically' and it does so by adopting a '*distinctly Christian approach to investment*'¹. This approach requires it to restrict its investments in a range of companies and activities, or even refuse to invest in them. You may not be surprised to know that these include: '*companies involved in ... conventional weaponry, ... tobacco, gambling, non-military rearms ... extraction of thermal coal*' and so on.

Let's look at weaponry. The CC states that '*attitudes to war and armaments are not defining matters for Christians or for Anglican orthodoxy*' and then goes on to say that '*because armaments are purposely designed to destroy human life, it would be inappropriate for the Church to devote capital to, and derive profit from, companies that support an activity (warfare) that, even if conducted ethically, falls so far short of the Christian ideal*'.

If you would like an example of *hubris*, this is one. The CC is saying that Christians hold a variety of attitudes to war but, despite there being no agreement, we, the CC, have decided that ideally there should be no war and therefore, even though people go to war perfectly properly ('ethically'), we shall not assist them. Our opinion is more important than theirs.

This will come as bitter news to the Ukrainians. They have been attacked by the Russians and are fighting for the survival of their country. The message to them from the CC is that they are falling below the Christian ideal and have no right to expect to be helped with arms.

You must form your own view of the wisdom of that. You might perhaps think that it is better to be red than dead, even if that means the obliteration of your society, your history, your culture and your religion - and you - but what we now know with absolute certainty after more than two years of bloody war is that the Ukrainians vehemently and passionately reject that view.

The CC also restricts investment in tobacco companies, having presumably decided that smoking is a Bad Thing, and therefore wishing to see smoking (which is lawful, albeit subject to some restrictions) abolished.

Everyone knows that smoking is dangerous but some people nevertheless smoke, and enjoy it. That is called free choice and it is something that the CC wishes to restrict or withdraw. Why does the CC think it can lead people's lives better than they can? If the CC attacks tobacco, why does it not also attack other perfectly legal activities where people might also be harmed or

¹ For reasons of space references are not given here but are available on request

injured: eating sugar, say, or playing rugbyⁱⁱ, or some other activity such as climbing Snowdon? How far into our lives will the CC extend the imposition of its values?

Now you might think that, however strange the attitude of the CC, we live in a free country and the CC should be entitled to invest (lawfully) as it wishes.

Perhaps so.

But the CC has £10bn at its disposal and, whether accurately or not, it thinks that by making the investments it does it can impose its values on society. That is not an option open to private individuals who do not have the clout given by this great wealth.

Other institutions now also have 'values' on matters ranging from sex to Brexit, and there is a growing tendency for them to try to order the world in accordance with these values. Universities – institutions dedicated to the discovery of truth through debate - have decided that particular lecturers do not share their views about sex and gender, and force them to resign; some banks have decided that some customers do not share their views on Brexit or firearms and have de-banked them. These actions have a catastrophic effect on their victims but, much more importantly, they have an utterly devastating effect on other people's readiness to say what they think.

Even where an individual is willing to brave public obloquy and speaks out, politicians, publishers and media platforms live in such fear of criticism themselves that they do their best to stifle dissentient views. The pandemic is rich with examples. The government's policy was at one time that people should wear masks. Carl Heneghan thought that there was little scientific evidence that this had benefit but found it virtually impossible to publish his viewsⁱⁱⁱ. That is a pity. He is the Professor for Evidence-Based Medicine at Oxford and hearing what he had to say might have been useful.

Forming our society – creating its character, its practices, deciding what it will accept and what it will not - is a matter for the people (the 'demos'), and their will is knowable from the millions of views expressed through recognised democratic means and, not least, in elections held every few years. Where people in positions of power, such as the managers of the CC investment fund, impose their own view there is a danger that it will conflict with that of the demos. That may be tolerable in the short term but there is a grave danger that in the longer term it will lead to dissatisfaction and mistrust in our institutions, and that in turn will ineluctably lead to unrest and civil strife.

The legal duty of the CC is to obtain, through lawful means, the best return possible for the people whom it was set up to benefit. It would do well to limit itself to performing that duty.



**St Gregory's Church
Castlemorton
WR13 6BQ**

**NEWS 15
March 2024**

Dear Friends

David, psalmist and king, says (Psalm 25) 'O Lord, I give my life to You. I trust in You, my God!'

To give our lives to Him like that is not foolish - though not easy. John 3, v16 tells us 'God so loved the world that He gave us His only Son, that whoever believes in (the Greek is *piteuo*, meaning 'to put one's whole trust in') Him shall not perish but have everlasting life.' So, in complete trust we give our mortal life to Him, and so become united with Him - for eternity; which is not foolish!

David prays on: 'Show me the right path, O Lord; point out the road for me to follow. Lead me by Your truth and teach me, for you are the God who saves me. All day long I put my hope in You.'

Today, people talk about 'their truth' and follow that; absolutes are in the decline - which makes life perhaps easier in some ways, yet immeasurably more confusing and divisive (what if my truth isn't yours? What if neither your truth nor mine is God's?) But David asks to be led by GOD'S truth, which may lead to adventure, even difficulty and hardship, but God blesses those who allow themselves to be so led, and they discover His great peace and joy in it.

How do we do it? We start by understanding (whether for the first time or as a restart) that in principle Jesus wants us to stop being 'in control', and let Him lead. His invitation is - 'Follow Me.'

Then we simply remember that we live the real life He gives through conversation with Him. Mostly not an erudite discussion on finer points of theology, but simply 'Lord, what should I do now? Show me.' Or sometimes just 'Help!' Sometimes 'Lord, forgive me.' And we get to know Him by reading His words often - daily; and believing that He really does love us (some find that hard).

May that love Jesus has for us encourage us as all we journey through Lent towards Easter.

With every good wish

Michael

Michael Harper
Licensed Lay Minister

Diary Dates

Services across the Berrow and Longdon benefices

Sunday Lent 5	17 March	8.30am 10.30am 10.30am	BCP Holy Communion All Age Worship Family Communion	Pendock Eldersfield Castlemorton
Friday	22 March	2.00pm	School Easter Service	Castlemorton
Palm Sunday	24 March	10.30am 10.30am 6.30pm	Holy Communion Family Communion Kaleidoscope	Birtsmorton Longdon Castlemorton
Good Friday	29 March	2.00pm	Good Friday Meditation	Hollybush
Sunday Easter Day	31 March	6.30am 10.30am 10.30am	Sunrise Service Family Communion Holy Communion	Old Church, Pendock Castlemorton Eldersfield
Sunday Easter 2	7 April	8.30am 10.30am 10.30am	BCP Holy Communion Café Church Family Communion	Eldersfield Eldersfield School Queenhill
Sunday Easter 3	14 April	8.30am 10.30am 6.30pm	BCP Holy Communion Holy Communion Evensong	Bushley Berrow Hollybush
Sunday Easter 4	21 April	8.30am 10.30am 10.30am	BCP Holy Communion All Age Worship Family Communion	Pendock Berrow Castlemorton
Sunday Easter 5	28 April	10.30am 10.30am 6.30pm	Holy Communion Family Communion Kaleidoscope	Birtsmorton Longdon Castlemorton
Sunday Easter 6	5 May	8.30am 10.30am 10.30am	BCP Holy Communion Café Church Family Communion	Eldersfield Eldersfield School Queenhill
Sunday Easter 7	12 May	8.30am 10.30am 6.30pm	BCP Holy Communion Holy Communion Evensong	Bushley Berrow Hollybush
Sunday Pentecost	19 May	8.30am 10.30am 10.30am	BCP Holy Communion All Age Worship Family Communion	Pendock Berrow Castlemorton

Refreshments are served after most services and children's activities are provided at St Gregory's during morning services. All are very welcome.

In addition, **Compline** is available via Zoom at 7.00pm every Friday and on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of Holy Week, 25-28 March. For details of how to join Zoom services, visit <https://berrowlongdon.org.uk/resources> (note change of website).

We look forward to wedding services on Saturday 11 May and Saturday 25 May and wish the couples involved a happy time as they make final preparations.

Other Events at Castlemorton (CM) and in the wider benefice

Saturday	16 March	7.30pm	<i>Safety Last</i> – silent movie accompanied by organist Jonathan Hope. Details on page 4	CM Church
Thursday	21 March	7.00 for 7.30pm	Lent Course 5	Home Farm Rye Street
Saturday	6 April	10.00	CaCoffany!	CM Church
Saturday	27 April	7.30pm	Flute and Harp Recital Grace Higgins and Nia Evans	CM Church
Tuesday	30 April	7.00pm	Compline followed by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting	Details to follow
Saturday	4 May	10.00	CaCoffany!	CM Church

St Gregory's Church Register

Wednesday 6 March Funeral Service and Burial at St Gregory's and Suzanne Judith WAGSTAFF, of Huntsbridge, Castlemorton, who died 12 February 2024, aged 81 years

Parish News

We have been saddened to learn of the recent passing of **Suzanne Wagstaff, Dorothy Raby, Shirley Loader** and **Joan Bedford** and also former Castlemorton residents **John Haines** and **Elizabeth Wilkins**. All will be greatly missed and our prayers and thoughts are with their families at this time.

Castlemorton Concerts 2024

St Gregory's Church, WR13 6BQ 7.30pm
Save the dates!

Tickets £12.50 from Sarah Musgrave - simusgrave33@gmail.com

Saturday
27 April

Grace Higgins and Nia Evans
Flute and Harp recital
includes music by Elgar, Andy Scott, Cras, Alwyn



Friday
14 June

The Hills Singers with Tim Sidford, piano and violin
Songs of Nature
includes music by Debussy, Elgar, Britten, Vaughan Williams



Saturday
7 September

The Elgar Ensemble
Music for Piano, Violin and Cello





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



Thursday 18th April at 7:30pm

A Haunting in Venice

(12A-2023-103mins)

Hercule Poirot (Kenneth Branagh) is retired but reluctantly drawn into a terrifying mystery, Poirot attends a séance and, when one of the guests is murdered, he is thrust into a sinister world of shadows and secrets.

Set in eerie post-World War 2 Venice on Halloween night.

Considered the best of Branagh's Poirot trilogy.

<https://artsalive.co.uk/films/film/?id=16198>

Tickets £5 on the door. For advance booking call Beth 01531 631503 or Malcolm 01684 833297 or email mortonmajestic@gmail.com.

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The Morton Majestic is at Castlemorton Parish Hall WR13 6BE

www.castlemortoncinema.co.uk

Vocations Sunday – 21st April

We often think of vocations in terms of ministry within the church: to be ordained or a lay minister. However, vocation, simply means what you are called by God to be and do. For some, this will be in formal ministry whether lay or ordained. But for all of us it will mean serving God through faithful discipleship in everyday life.

As Christians, we are called to spread the Good News to everyone, to be a Christian presence in every community. Vocations Sunday offers us an opportunity to stop and reflect on our vocations both individually and corporately. Are we living our faith as we would like to? What changes might we make?

There are a number of people within the Diocese who can help you work out what God might be calling you to be and do. This could be your vicar or another member of your church leadership team or community. It could be friends, family, or co-workers. It might be a member of the Mission and Ministry team, especially if you feel called towards formal ministry. Or you might find a spiritual director helpful, and the diocesan Spirituality Connexions group can help you to find one.

Almighty and everlasting God, hear our prayer which we offer for all your faithful people, that in their vocation and ministry they may serve you in holiness and truth to the glory of your name; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Parishes will now be able to apply for grants of up to £10,000 to make repairs to their church buildings thanks to a new funding stream from the national church.

Our diocese has been awarded £135,000 by the Church Commissioners to distribute as a share of the £6.2m fund across the Church of England as part of the Buildings for Mission project. The grants will focus on small-scale but urgent works and 'stitch in time' projects that could save larger sums in the long term. The fund will also be able to help cover the cost of essential improvements for the mission and ministry of a church. Example works might include repairs to roofs or windows, the increasing of capacity in rainwater systems to deal with modern rainfall patterns or the upgrading of facilities to help with access within churches.

The fund will open for applications from 1 March, with submission deadlines every 3 months, the first on 31 May 2024 and the last on 31 May 2025.

Archdeacon of Dudley, Nikki Groarke, said: "*Caring for a church building, of whatever age or complexity, is always a difficult task for PCCs. This new fund will help with those routine repairs and improvements, items can often be difficult things to fund from stretched budgets. I hope that our churches will take advantage of this opportunity and apply for funding.*"

More information, including application form and eligibility criteria can be [found here](#); the church buildings team will be happy to receive initial enquiries and to help parishes to submit applications, contact churches@cofe-worcester.org.uk

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10.50 Coffee, cake and chat**

**Email Sarah with your requests for the programme
sjmusgrave33@gmail.com**

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2024 Dates – Saturdays

**6 January, 3 February, 2 March, 6 April, 4 May, 1 June, 6 July
7 September, 5 October, 2 November, 7 December**



All Welcome!



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GL19 4NN



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home. Please call Claudine 07748677997 with any
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Grass Keep & Mowing Grass Tenders Open

GRASS KEEP

The Trustees of Eldersfield Allotments invite tenders for the purchase of the grass keep on the Park Field, Corse Lawn from 1st May 2024 to 31 October 2024. The field, extending to an area of about two acres, may be mown and/or grazed. The successful bidder will be responsible for ensuring that the fencing is adequate for their needs.

Offers in writing (sealed bids) should reach the undersigned **not later than 5pm Friday 26th April 2024**. Please include an email address.

Mrs Tracy Owen, East Leigh, Corse Lawn, Gloucestershire, GL19 4LY

MOWING GRASS

The Trustees of Eldersfield Allotments invite tenders for the purchase of the mowing grass on the Allotment Field, Corse Lawn, to be used only for the production of hay or silage, from 1st May 2024 to 31st October 2024. The field extends in total to approximately 2.2 acres, but an area may be reserved as an allotment garden and for this reason grazing by livestock will not be permitted.

Offers in writing (sealed bids) should reach the undersigned **not later than 5pm Friday 26th April 2024**. Please include an email address.

Mrs Tracy Owen, East Leigh, Corse Lawn, Gloucestershire, GL19 4LY

Services in the Benefices of Berrow and Longdon

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
5 th May 6 th Sunday of Easter	Eldersfield Church	8.30am	BCP Holy Communion	Acts 10.44 – End 1 John 5. 1 -- 6	Janet Peters	----
	Eldersfield School	10.30am	Church @ the School	TBA	TBA	TBA
	Queenhill Church	10.30am	Holy Communion	Acts 10.44 – End 1 John 5. 1 -- 6	TBA	TBA
12 th May	Bushley Church	8.30am	BCP Holy Communion	Acts 1.15-17, 21-End 1 John 5. 9 – 13	TBA	—
7 th Sunday of Easter	Berrow Church	10.30am	Holy Communion	Acts 1.15-17, 21-End 1 John 5. 9 – 13	Mel Roberts	Doug Braund
	Hollybush Church	6.30pm	Evensong	Isaiah 61. 1 -- End Luke 4. 14 – 21	Shirley Williams	Celia Greatwood
19 th May Pentecost	Pendock Cross Church	8.30am	BCP Holy Communion	Acts 2. 1 – 21 Romans 8. 22 – 27	Andrew Rambridge	—
	Eldersfield Church	10.30am	All Age Worship	TBA	TBA	TBA
	Castlemorton Church	10.30am	Holy Communion	Acts 2. 1 – 21 Romans 8. 22 – 27	TBA	TBA
26 th May Trinity Sunday	Hollybush Church	10.30am	Holy Communion	Isaiah 6. 1 – 8 Romans 8. 12 – 17	David Allen	Cathy P-Chandler
	Longdon Church	10.30am	Holy Communion	Isaiah 6. 1 – 8 Romans 8. 12 -- 17	TBA	TBA
	Castlemorton Church	6.30pm	Kaleidoscope	TBA	TBA	TBA

cvbbbbc

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 and Longdon Benefices website
<https://berrowlongdon.org.uk/resources>

Services in the Benefices of Berrow and Longdon

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(s)	Reader	Intercessor
7 th April 2 nd Sunday of Easter	Eldersfield Church	8.30am	BCP Holy Communion	Acts 4. 32 – 35 1 John 1. 1 – 2.2	Janet Peters	—
	Eldersfield School	10.30am	Church @ the School	TBA	TBA	TBA
	Queenhill Church	10.30am	Holy Communion	Acts 4. 32 – 35 1 John 1. 1 – 2.2	TBA	TBA
14 th April 3 rd Sunday of Easter	Bushley Church	8.30am	BCP Holy Communion	Acts 3. 12 – 19 1 John 3. 1 – 7	TBA	—
	Berrow Church	10.30am	Holy Communion	Acts 3. 12 – 19 1 John 3. 1 – 7	Elizabeth Rambridge	Doug Braund
	Hollybush Church	6.30pm	Holy Communion	Acts 3. 12 – 19 1 John 3. 1 – 7	David Allen	Cathy P-Chandler
21 st April 4 th Sunday of Easter	Pendock Cross Church	8.30am	BCP Holy Communion	Acts 4. 5 – 12 1 John 3. 16 – end	Andrew Rambridge	—
	Berrow Church	10.30am	All Age Worship	TBA	TBA	TBA
	Castlemorton Church	10.30am	Holy Communion	Acts 4. 5 – 12 1 John 3. 16 – end	TBA	TBA
28 th April 5 th Sunday of Easter	Birtsmorton Church	10.30am	Holy Communion	Acts 8. 26 – end 1 John 4. 7 – end	Bob James	Martin Knot
	Longdon Church	10.30am	Holy Communion	Acts 8. 26 – end 1 John 4. 7 – 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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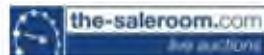
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