

May 2025

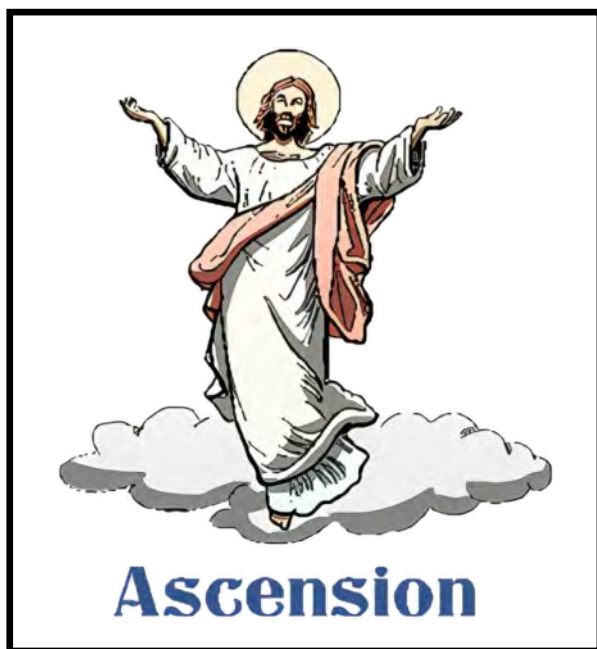
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The Benefice of Berrow

covering the Parishes of Berrow with Pendock,
Eldersfield, Hollybush and Birtsmorton

The Benefice of Longdon

covering the Parishes of Longdon, Bushley,
Castlemorton and Queenhill with Holdfast



Parish Magazine

THE BENEFICES OF BERROW AND LONGDON

MINISTRY TEAM

Rector	The Rev'd Canon Julie James, Thistledown, 01531 651795 Pendock, Glos GL19 3PW (Day Off – Monday)	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 Ministers	Mr David Allen ALM Mr J Cox ALM Dr M Harper LLM Mrs T Mullins ALM	01531 650495 07966 130910 01684 830133 trishmullins@btinternet.com
Benefice Administrator	Mrs Chris Glyde The Parish Office, Berrow WR13 6JN Wed 9.30am-Noon email: admin@berrowlongdon.org.uk	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

BIRTSMORTON AND HOLLYBUSH

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

BUSHLEY

Churchwarden	Mr Mark Taylor	MarkRTaylor1976@gmail.com
P.C.C. Secretary	POST VACANT	
Treasurer	Mr S Evans	01684 296380

CASTLEMORTON

Churchwardens	Mr M Lister	01684 631503
	Mrs S Musgrave	01684 310330 / 07715 562311
P.C.C. Secretary	Mrs C Leake	01684 310409
Treasurer	Mr F Harris	01684 573032

ELDERSFIELD

Churchwardens	Mr A Holt	01452 780429
	Miss J Peters	01452 840211
P.C.C. Secretary	Mrs C Powell-Chandler	01531 635794
Treasurer	Mr D Braund	01684 830099
Tower Captain	Miss J Peters	01452 840211

LONGDON

Churchwarden	POST VACANT	
P.C.C. Secretary	POST VACANT Mr B Austin (acting)	01684 833789
Treasurer	Rev'd G Moore	07961 505871

QUEENHILL WITH HOLDBAST

Churchwarden	Mr J Corbet-Milward	07796 983567
P.C.C. Secretary	Mrs N Inchbald	07785 280165
Treasurer	Mr L Kelly	07821 750855

BERROW VILLAGE HALL

Bookings	Caroline Samsonoff	07709 487883
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Brian and Leta Woodcock, "The Larches", 2 Poolhay Close, Link End Road, Corse Lawn GL19 4NY

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Dear Friends,

Whenever you set out on a journey, what essentials do you take? When I was training to lead groups in the mountains, having quality walking boots and socks were important, whilst having good navigational skills, plotting thoroughly a route using a map and compass. Checking the weather, stocking up on calories before you set off, having a broad first aid knowledge; the ability to lead others whilst having those skills to manage and cater for all potential risks and weather conditions.

Who and what have acted as a compass or direction of your life's journey? On our recent Lent course, we reflected on our faith, our relationship with God and how that has given us direction in different situations. During Lent, we have reflected on the journey towards Easter.

We are all in need of nourishment, not only to sustain our bodies but also our souls. It is finding those things that provide us with long-lasting nourishment. In our relationship with God, we can find it through nature, the arts, silence, worship, walking, prayer and being in fellowship with others.

Jesus can shine as a light for us when surrounded by darkness in our lives and we can also shine alight for others too when we come along side others on their life's journey.

Are you looking for the right balance in your life? At times, we can all struggle with anxiety or a lack of confidence. In Psalm 18.2 , it

says: 'The Lord is my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer, my God, my rock in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.'

In these precarious times, it is important to have hope and to be encouraged. So many times, we have self-doubt. What are we striving for and towards? What fulfils us? What will happen next?

What are the essentials for our daily lives? We can be cleansed and renewed by God's pouring waters of grace, love and mercy. We can step out each day refreshed, renewed, cleansed and ready for the day that lies ahead.

A prayer by Dietrich Bonhoeffer (1906-45)

God of the day and of the night:

In me there is darkness,

But with you here is light;

I am lonely, but you do not leave me;

I am feeble in heart, but with you there is help;

I am restless, but with you there is peace.

In me there is bitterness, but with you there is patience;

I do not understand your ways,

But you know the way for me;

Now and forever. Amen



Rev'd Canon Julie James

VE Day 80th Anniversary

The bells of Eldersfield church will be ringing out from 10.45am – 11.15am on Monday 5th May to celebrate the 80th anniversary of VE (Victory in Europe) Day.

Rev Julie is Retiring!

Terrible news for us here in the benefice, but wonderful for Julie and Bob to be able to look forward to having more time to spend with family, with friends – and maybe even with each other! As they depart for a new life in Pershore – so not too far away, thankfully – we thought it would be lovely to do something to mark Julie's almost 11 years of amazing ministry in primarily Berrow Benefice, but with the addition of Longdon Benefice for her final eighteen months with us.

Her final service will be held on Sunday 29th June at 11am at St Faith's Berrow – the same Church where she was licensed as our priest on 1st September 2014 – how time flies! There will be a bring and share lunch afterwards at Berrow Village Hall and we are doing a collection so that we can give to her and to Bob – they are such a team – a token of our grateful thanks for all that they have both done to enhance and sustain the life of the Church within our communities – in particular the way they have both given so generously of their time, talents and hospitality to all. If you wish to contribute, the bank's details are as follows:

Account Name: Eldersfield PCC

Sort code: 30-91-87, Account code: 00421437.

Please use Julie as your reference.

Alternatively, cash or cheques may be given to Doug Braund or myself.

Rev Anthea Elston

Prayers for May 2025

Dear God

We are thankful for our wonderful creation and all the fruits of the earth that we enjoy. We thank all those who harvest and produce our food locally and globally. As we journey towards the summer, may we find refreshment, hope and guidance for the time ahead in amongst all the challenges of our modern world.

We pray for all those who have died recently and those whose health issues are causing concerns. May we offer support and understanding to those whom we love and are going through tough times.

We look for the simple blessings of our daily lives, our families, friends, and activities that nourish us in so many ways.

Rev'd Canon Julie James

Lent 2025

Over 5 weeks, we journeyed together, reflecting on what helps us to deal with the rigors of real life. Using insights from John's gospel, we explored what gives us direction (our compass), nourishment (bread), wisdom, refreshment (water) and security (different symbols).

Many thanks to Jeremy and Felicity Cox for hosting us, with lovely light refreshments and music. Most important, was the combination of fellowship and encouragement during this period of Lent

Rev'd Canon Julie James

Benefice Diary

Thursday 1 st May	Leaders Meeting	Thistledown 7.30pm
Wednesday 7 th May	Installation Rev'd Julie as a Canon	5.30pm Worcester Cathedral
Tuesday 13 th May	Celebration of Small churches	7pm Worcester Cathedral
Sunday 25 th May	Rogation at Queenhill	4pm. Followed by Tea and Cake!
Thursday 5 th June	All Berrow Benefice PCC's	2pm Berrow Village Hall
Thursday 12 th June	Longdon and Berrow Standing Committees	7.30pm Berrow Village Hall
Saturday 14 th June	Ceilidh, pig roast and games	Eldersfield Court 5-8pm
Thursday 19 th June	Deanery Outdoor Event	TBA
Thursday 26 th June	Queenhill PCC	7.30pm.at Luke's
Sunday 29 th June	Benefices service Rev'd Julie James-retiring!	11.00am St Faith, Berrow Afterwards, Berrow Village Hall
Tuesday 8 th July	Church Wardens service	7pm. St Mary & All Saints, Kidderminster DY10 2JN

If you have any additional dates, please contact Berrow Benefice Office or Rev'd Julie James.



Bible Study

Tuesday: - Thistledown, Pendock

Tuesday: 8th May, 10th June

10.30am Cuppa and biscuit!

Bible reflections, depart 12 noon

All Welcome

Rev. Julie James

Prayer written by a 17th Century Nun - Middle Age!

Lord, you know better than I know myself that I am growing older and will someday be old. Keep me from the fatal habit of thinking I must say something on every subject and on every occasion. Release me from craving to straighten out everybody's affairs. Make me thoughtful but not moody; helpful but not bossy. With my vast store of wisdom, it seems a pity not to use it all, but you know Lord, that I want a few friends at the end.

Keep my mind free from the recital of endless details; give me wings to get to the point. Seal my lips on my aches and pains. They are increasing and love of rehearsing them is becoming sweeter as the years go by. I dare not ask for grace enough to enjoy the tales of other's pains, but help me to endure them with patience. I dare not ask for improved memory, but for a growing humility and a lessening cocksureness when my memory seems to clash with the memories of others. Teach me the glorious lesson that occasionally I may be mistaken.

Keep me reasonably sweet; I do not want to be a saint - some of them are so hard to live with - but a sour old person is one of the crowning works of the Devil. Give me the ability to see good things in unexpected places and talents in unexpected people. And, give me, O Lord, the grace to tell them so. Amen.

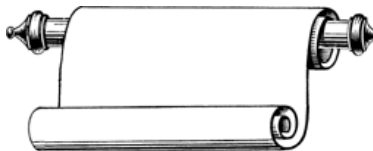
(Sent in by Blanche)

Eldersfield Cricket Club

May Fixtures

May 3 rd	Aston Ingham 2 nd XI	Home
May 10 th	Bourton Vale 3 rd XI	Away
May 17 th	Huntley 1 st XI	Home
May 24 th	Highnam Court 1 st XI	Away
May 31 st	Arcadians Nine Elms 2 nd XI	Home

**FROM
THE
REGISTERS**



Baptisms

All Saints Hollybush

4 th January	Douglas Hislop
23 rd March	Nell Ada Roberts

St Thomas of Canterbury with St Peter and St Paul Birtsmorton

29 th March	Dylan Reuben Rees
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Weddings

St Thomas of Canterbury with St Peter and St Paul Birtsmorton

26 th March	Samuel Algar and Ellie Harper-Emerson
5 th April	Barrie Javens and Natasha Chare
7 th April	Joshua Beek and Emily Beer
14 th April	Toby Edwards and Ellena Barnett

Funerals and Interments

St Mary's, Longdon

28th February	Patricia Gray
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St Gregory's, Castlemorton

19th March	Sterling Hart
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St Faith, Berrow

24th April	Audrey Sayce
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All Saints, Hollybush

30 th April	Ringo Eggerton
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Rogation Sunday

25th May 2025

Traditionally a Rogationtide service is held outside, into God's creation. And such a service is good for all ages. We celebrate God's wonderful creation. We remind ourselves of how much we depend on the crops in the fields and farm animals for our food, as well as remembering so many other blessings. But it is also a time to repent of the harm we have done and are doing to our planet: our neglect and exploitation of our environment; our treatment of our fellow creatures.

We human beings are responsible for planet earth. God has placed it in our hands. We must all help and do what we can to change our ways and look after our planet.

Rev'd Canon Julie James

QUEENHILL WI FUNDRAISER

80th VE DAY ANNIVERSARY AFTERNOON TEA AND TALK

THURSDAY 8th MAY 2.15-4.00pm - £5

Queenhill and District WI invite our friends and neighbours to Queenhill WI Hall to celebrate the 80th Anniversary of VE Day with a delicious 1940s Tea Party, Raffle and a fascinating talk – "£2 That Changed My Life!"

- The £5 entry fee will go towards the upkeep of our historic hall -

Caring for God's Acre

This article could well be subtitled a review of a recent book –
‘Church Going, A Stonemason’s Guide
to the Churches of the British Isles’
by Andrew Ziminski

The front cover with its testimonials boded well. Rory Stewart writes, ‘A beautiful book – Ziminski is a rare and wonderful voice’ and a great authority himself, Simon Jenkins says ‘A masterly guide to the detail and meaning but also the glory of Britain’s heritage’. ‘But you said you were going to write about churchyards or the swifts’; I hope I have one or two regular readers who may well remember the plan. Well, truth be I was a bit anxious as over the last maybe 10 years I have felt I might have shot my bolt on things to say about churchyards.

I’d seen this publication – from last year – advertised in a few places and when I ordered a copy, instantly was gripped, and maybe a little surprised. There are 3 sections: second and third, the Church Exterior and the Church Interior; but oh, the first section – the Churchyard - is fabulous, full of description of the remarkable quality of the natural heritage we have here on our doorstep, particularly in the churchyards of St Faith’s, Berrow and the Church of St John the Baptist, Eldersfield.

Amongst the practical, historic explanations, are wonderful literary references. Ziminski explains the churchyard might be called the church ‘litten’ from the Anglo-Saxon word ‘lych’ meaning ‘corpse’. He quotes Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1842) –

‘I like that ancient Saxon phrase, which calls
The Burial-ground God’s Acre! It is just;
It consecrates each grave within its walls,
And creates a benison o’er the sleeping dust.’

Though – oh dear, confessions, a quick turn to Mr Wikipedia tells me ‘God’s Acre’ was originally a German term, ‘Gottesacker’ which translated to ‘Field of God’ in the early 17th century, but by the end of that century it was accepted as an English term. Yet another example of the great march of language over the years.

The poet John Clare is invoked – churchyards are spaces ‘where crowds of buried memories sleep’. Straightaway Ziminski says this – ‘I seldom find churchyards morbid or bleak’. I used to reflect I was not certain a churchyard was where I wanted to spend too much time; but there is an extraordinary air of tranquillity and a tangible touching of the past. Of course, often a visitor comes by, to the graves – and I always say ‘hello’ - or one of those many ‘church crawlers’ who invariably rock up unexpectedly. Once a very groovy biker arrived in his leathers and as I came to greet him, he said ‘I’ve come to see if you’ve got any newts in the churchyard’. A reminder not to judge by appearance.

In 1603, an edict demanded that all churchyards be ‘duly fenced’. which means this will be the oldest enclosed space in a parish; and so, the enclosure ‘exists in a sort of ecological time warp that will reflect something of the ancient woodland or flower-rich meadows they were carved out of’.

How pertinent for now – daffodils were also called Lenten lilies as they were meant to fade on the last day of Lent; and listen to this – cowslips were also known as ‘herb Peter’ or ‘keys of heaven’ because the one-sided flowerheads resemble a bunch of keys. It was said cowslips grew where St Peter momentarily dropped the keys of the kingdom of heaven which Jesus had given to him.

There’s also this business of the north side of the churchyard. It is one of the curious features at St Faith’s that you enter by the north door and so the main burial area is in the north also, which is uncommon. Ziminski quotes Gilbert White who complained that the parishioners all wanted to be buried on the south side. We do think there is a plague pit from the Black Death on the south side of St Faith’s, so maybe that played a part in the use of the north side.

Andrew Ziminski describes his book not so much as history of church architecture but more ‘a series of vignettes’; the illustrations are charming. Even better pop down to one of our churchyards, reflect on the beauty on your doorstep, say a ‘hurrah’ for our volunteers, and if you can, consider joining these splendid teams.

Elisabeth Rambridge, Churchwarden



The Children's Society

Registered Charity Number: 221124

Charity walk, Severn Bridge to Gloucester

23rd May 2025

Each year I set myself a walking challenge to raise funds for The Children's Society and generous supporters have helped me raise between £1500 and £2000 annually.

This time I plan to walk to follow the Severn Way and Sharpness canal, 25+ miles - in a day! Why there? I have given a number of talks at schools and churches in the area so it seems appropriate.

If you feel able to donate that would help the Society continue its essential work supporting children who are in desperate need of help – those who are neglected, abused, ignored or 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.

www.justgiving.com/page/andy-holt-3

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

I can take cash/cheques if you prefer. Anything you can give will help so many young people to keep happy & safe and escape from a life of fear.

Thank you. Andy Holt. awholt36@gmail.com

Eldersfield Summer Family Event

Pig roast and Ceilidh

Games on the lawn, bar.

Saturday 14th June 2025



5 – 8 pm



Eldersfield Court

(Keep the date and get
your dancing shoes ready!)

Tickets on sale soon

Pop Up Plant Sale

**Hollybush
Church**

**Saturday 10th
May**

11am – 1pm



Saturday 10th May at 7:15pm

My Favourite Cake

(12A-2024-96mins)

A 70-year-old widow in Tehran shakes up her predictable existence when she pursues a relationship with a lonely taxi driver in this charming defiant late-in-life romantic comedy.

This is a Supper Special and advanced booking is essential.

Doors open at 7:00 for a 7:15 start

Tickets £12 including a light meal

For advance booking call Beth 01531

631503 or Malcolm 01684 833297 or

email mortonmajestic@gmail.com.

Licensed Bar / Refreshments / Ice creams

The Morton Majestic is at Castlemorton Parish
Hall WR13 6BE

www.castlemortoncinema.co.uk

Birtsmorton Parish Council

Thursday 15 May 2025

Castlemorton Parish Hall 7pm

Annual Parish Meeting

To be followed by

Annual Meeting of the Parish Council

Website for details

<https://e-services.worcestershire.gov.uk/myparish/>

BERROW PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Followed by

**ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH
COUNCIL**

Monday 19th May 2025

6:30 p.m.

At

Berrow and Pendock Village Hall

Everyone welcome

Working with Nature to Reduce Flooding: Solutions for Our Community



CEG invite you to a talk by Jacob Loughran, Catchment Restoration Officer with Severn Rivers Trust.

Join us for an informative talk on how we are using natural processes to address flooding challenges. Extreme weather patterns, storms and heavy rain have led to excess water running off farmland, flooding roads, and entering homes and businesses. Jacob will share practical and natural solutions that he is implementing around the river Teme, including the creation of farm ponds and wetlands, 'leaky dams', tree planting, and other innovative approaches to land and water management.

Discover how landowners, volunteers, and communities can work together to reduce flooding, enhance landscapes, and create a more resilient environment. The talk will also showcase the wider work of Severn Rivers Trust, highlighting ways you can get involved in our efforts to protect and restore local rivers.

Castlemorton Parish Hall
Thursday 29th May at 7:30pm

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

This event is sponsored by Castlemorton Parish Council



2nd Berrow and Pendock Pumpkin Festival

Saturday 11th October 2025

12 p.m. ~ 4 p.m.

Berrow and Pendock Village Hall, WR13 6JN

We are doing it all again, only bigger!

SAVE THE DATE!

Get your seeds ready for planting!

Once again, due to the huge success of last year, we will be hosting pumpkin related growing competitions, art competitions, baking and photography. There will also be teas, homemade soup, sausage rolls & cakes in the village hall. Stalls selling local crafts will be in the church yard.

Grow your own pumpkins and squash and enter our competitions

For information or details on competition classes please contact us at:

BerrowVillageHallMalvern@gmail.com

Or message us on our Facebook page

www.facebook.com/BerrowAndPendockVillageHall

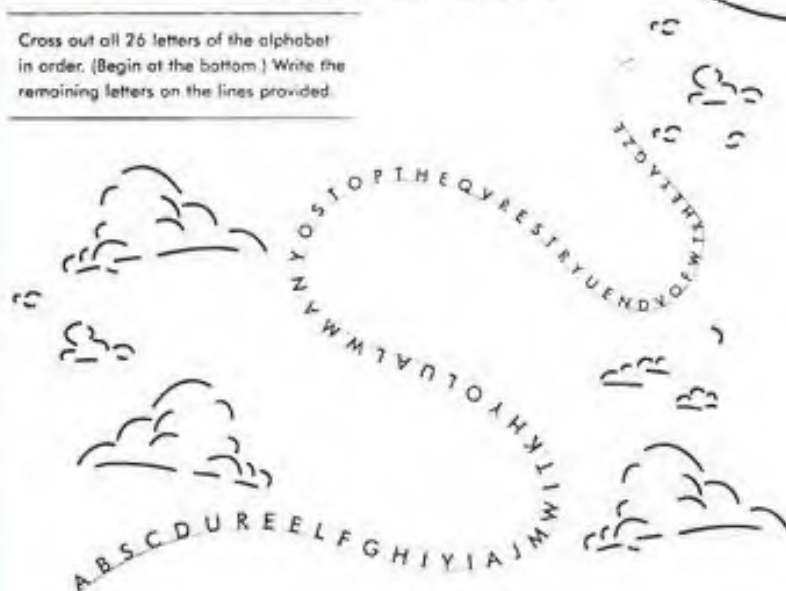


Jesus' Farewell

The Great Commission and Ascension

—Matthew 28;
Acts 1

Cross out all 26 letters of the alphabet in order. (Begin at the bottom.) Write the remaining letters on the lines provided.



What was the last thing Jesus said to the disciples before He went into Heaven?

"_____"

"_____"

(Matthew 28:20)

This magazine prides itself on providing readers with useful ideas. This article is unashamedly about Useless Ideas and of these I shall give you three: one moral, one political and one legal. There are many more and I invite you to find them!

Let's talk about greed. St Paul had views on greed: he was against it. In Hebrews (at 13:5) he said 'Let your conversation be without covetousness (*Ἀφιλάργυρος*).

That word *Ἀφιλάργυρος* ('not-love-money') may sound reasonable: there's no point in collecting a mountain of £20 notes just for the pleasure of it. That's being greedy – displaying an immoderate desire for something. The same could be said, of course, about stamps, or beer mats, even though these are not mentioned by St Paul. But if your passion in life happens to be collecting beer mats, or stamps, or £20 notes, where is the problem if the object of your attention is not inherently evil?

But what's wrong with an immoderate desire: to be whole-heartedly, purposely, passionately, dedicated to acquiring or doing something?

St Paul then goes further. 'Be content with such things as ye have', he says. If we had followed that advice I would have been writing this in a cave and telling my children not to dream of inventing the wheel. Today we all want things we do not have - a cure for cancer, for example - and I think it right and proper that we set out to achieve them.

If Mme Curie had curbed her immoderate desire to work all hours in the lab, or if Frau Schubert had limited her son's keyboard time, would the world have been a better place? These people are definitions of the word 'greedy' and they are, I suggest, proof that the concept is Useless.

My second *Useless Idea* is that of 'Fair Taxes'. This is a very popular idea and is often trotted out, usually just before the Chancellor increases taxation on one group of people or another. The reason is obvious: a fair tax is more likely to be accepted than one that is unfair.

But how can you measure the fairness of different taxes? Is it fair that some people should pay a higher proportion of their income just because they are rich? If so, would it be fairer if the poor paid a lower rate of VAT? The top 1% of income tax payers pay 30% of all income tax received: would it be fairer if they paid 40%, or 20%? What percentage would be fairest? There will be as many views on these questions as there are taxpayers.

The Finance Minister to Louis XIV, Colbert, said that the art of taxation was to pluck the maximum number of feathers from the goose with the minimum amount of hissing. So it is today. The aim of the Chancellor is simply to take as much tax as possible with as little political commotion as possible. The notion of a 'fair tax' is useful but only because it fools the gullible; in guiding the Chancellor what tax to apply it is entirely Useless.

And lastly, the *Useless Idea* of 'genocide'. The term was unknown until the 1940s when Raphael Lemkin, a Polish lawyer, dreamt up a new crime for use against German war leaders.

You would be forgiven for thinking that because the term uses '*genus*' – a race or species – and '*cide*' – killing – it is limited to killing people but that is not the case. The definition adopted during the Nuremberg trials was '*acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnic, racial or religious group*'. You can destroy a group by dispersing it, destroying the symbols and characteristics which make it a group, or by killing its members.

The former part of that definition has sometimes been given the name *ethnocide* but below I use 'genocide' in the sense of killing people.

Genocide (in this sense) is generally interpreted as the killing of many people of a particular group, because they are members of that group. It is murder by a different name. However, it defines itself in terms of a group and thereby it reduces the emphasis we place on the importance of the individual. This might lead some people to think that the Holocaust with its toll of six million was worse than the Armenian genocide when only – only! – a million were killed.

The worst crime which could be committed before the notion of genocide was introduced was murder but, as we have said, genocide is murder. The problem is that we now have two worst crimes – murder and genocide – and you cannot compare the two and say that one is worse than the other; if you could, then the counsel of a convicted defendant would claim leniency because his client had killed only a hundred people, not a thousand.

In 2018 the murder of one man, the journalist Jamal Khashoggi, gave rise to universal condemnation and it is that reaction which is appropriate to the murder of Jews in the Holocaust, whether they were six million or just one.

The idea of 'genocide' diminishes the importance of the individual; this makes it worse than Useless.

And that is my starter list of *Useless Ideas* – which I hope you found useful!

Eldersfield Lawn C of E Primary School

Open the Book Team

We welcome the Open the Book Team to our school each Wednesday and appreciate their weekly visits and support in sharing parables with the children in a fun and engaging way.

Our school vision is LIFE

**‘Living and Inspiring Futures for Everyone’
and our value this half-term is Community.**

‘Live in harmony with one another’

Romans 12:16



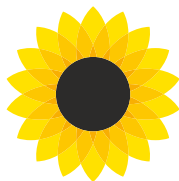
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Rachele is our Colwall and Ledbury Funeral Director.



Amie Cook



Rachele Watson



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01684 563983

www.jacksonfamilyfunerals.com





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

Thank you for the generous food bank donations given through our church and our local schools. The Christmas seasonal foods were most welcome. Money donations are gratefully received so that necessary articles families need can be purchased.

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 Canon Julie James



SCHOOL PLACES AVAILABLE SEPTEMBER 2025

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- Dedicated, nurturing staff team
- High staff-child ratios
- Focus on inclusion and wellbeing
- Emphasis on outdoor learning
- Swimming from Reception to Year 6
- On-site catering for hot lunches
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Weddings-Please check the website. www.berrowlongdon.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 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
1 st June 7 th Sunday of Easter	Bushley Church	8.30am	BCP Holy Communion	Ezekiel 36. 24--28 Acts 16. 16--34	TBA	---
	Eldersfield School	10.30am	Church @ the School	Isaiah 44. 1--8 Ephesians 4. 7--16	TBA	TBA
	Queenhill Church	10.30am	Holy Communion	Ezekiel 36. 24--28 Acts 16. 16--34	TBA	TBA
8 th June Pentecost	Eldersfield Church	8.30am	BCP Holy Communion	Genesis 11. 1--9 Acts 2. 1--21	Fiona Collins	---
	Birtmorton Church	10.30am	Holy Communion	Genesis 11. 1--9 Acts 2. 1--21	Ruth Coates	
	Castlemorton Church	6.30pm	Kaleidoscope	TBA	TBA	TBA
15 th June Trinity Sunday	Pendock Cross Church	8.30am	BCP Holy Communion	Proverbs 8. 1-4, 22-31 Romans. 5. 1--5	Andrew Rambridge	---
	Berrow Church	10.30am	All Age Worship	TBA	TBA	TBA
	Castlemorton Church	10.30am	Family Communion	Proverbs 8. 1-4, 22-31 Romans. 5. 1--5	TBA	TBA
22 nd June 1 st Sunday after Trinity	Berrow Church	10.30am	Holy Communion	Isaiah 65. 1--9 Galatians 3. 23 -- End	Bob James	Doug Braund
	Longdon Church	10.30am	Holy Communion	Isaiah 65. 1--9 Galatians 3. 23 -- End	TBA	TBA
	Hollybush Church	6.30pm	Evensong	Genesis 24. 1--27 Mark 5. 21 -- End	David Allen	Lis Ritchie
29 th June 2 nd Sunday after Trinity	Berrow Church	11.00am	Holy Communion Julie's Final Service in the Benefice	Ezekiel 3. 22 -- End Acts 12. 1 -- 11	TBA	TBA

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	Reader	Intercessor
4th May 3rd Sunday of Easter	Bushley Church	8.30am	BCP Holy Communion	Zephania 3. 14 – End Acts 9. 1 – 6	TBA	----
	Eldersfield School	10.30am	Church @ the School	Isaiah 38. 9 – 20 John 11. 27 – 44	TBA	TBA
	Queenhill Church	10.30am	Holy Communion	Zephania 3. 14 – End Acts 9. 1 – 6	TBA	TBA
11th May 4th Sunday of Easter	Eldersfield Church	8.30am	BCP Holy Communion	Acts 9. 36 – End Revelation 7. 9 -- End	Janet Peters	-----
	Birtsmorton Church	10.30am	Holy Communion	Acts 9. 36 – End Revelation 7. 9 -- End	Bob James	Cathy P-Chandler
	Castlemorton Church	6.30pm	Kaleidoscope	TBA	TBA	TBA
18th May 5th Sunday of Easter	Pendock Cross Church	8.30am	BCP Holy Communion	Genesis 22. 1 – 18 Acts 11. 1 – 18	Andrew Rambridge	-----
	Eldersfield Church	10.30am	All Age Worship	TBA	TBA	TBA
	Castlemorton Church	10.30am	Family Communion	Genesis 22. 1 – 18 Acts 11. 1 – 18	TBA	TBA
25th May 6th Sunday of Easter	Berrow Church	10.30am	Holy Communion	Ezekiel 37. 1 – 14 Acts 16. 9 – 15	Elisabeth Rambridge	Ann Ward
	Longdon Church	10.30am	Holy Communion	Ezekiel 37. 1 – 14 Acts 16. 9 – 15	TBA	TBA
	Queenhill Church	4.00pm	Rogation Service	TBA	TBA	TBA
	Hollybush Church	6.30pm	Evensong	Matthew 28. 1-10, 16-20	David Allen	Liz Lean

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Thank you for the generous food bank donations given through our church, our local schools and the Berrow Parish Council. Money donations are gratefully received so that necessary articles families need can be purchased.

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



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