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

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A few thoughts from the improper Vicar

Greetings one and all and welcome to this strange new world where we are without a full time, salaried vicar in the benefices. However, many of you will already have lived through at least one of these periods – known in church terms as an interregnum – the gap between one vicar leaving and a shiny new incumbent arriving. Thankfully we have not totally said goodbye to Rev Julie, she is still carrying out many of our Birtsmorton weddings, which is very kind of her, and lovely that we stay in touch with her and Bob.

I would always describe her as the proper vicar, and myself as the improper vicar, simply because it was a more understandable description of my status than the official churchese term of non-stipendiary. Simply put, I'm a volunteer vicar, part of the team of volunteers who will be keeping your parish churches up and running until we get a new proper vicar. Sadly, the first time of advertising produce no applicants at all, but nothing daunted, we go again with a renewed advert in September, hoping to be able to interview at least one candidate in November.

Meanwhile, we give thanks to God for all those who offer their time and talents to lead services and bible study groups, keep the churches cleaned and maintained, look after our beautiful churchyards, write prayers, read the lesson, sing in our local Berrow Benefice Choir and so much more. It definitely takes a village to keep a church and its community up and running, so if you've ever thought of offering your skills, whatever they are, to help out in your local church or PCC, now is the time! Just contact me or the local church warden and they will work with you to put your talents to good use.

There is currently a huge gap in our worshipping community, caused by the death of Giles Turner, our amazing organist, who

gave of his time and talents so generously over so many years. I have reproduced his daughter Katharine's tribute to him in this edition of the magazine, so that those who were unable to attend his funeral can see what a truly remarkable man he was. Meanwhile, we are reliant on recorded music for our services, so if you know of any organists who are free of a Sunday morning, do send them our way! And if any organists out there need somewhere to practice, we do need to keep our organs at Eldersfield, Birtsmorton, Berrow and Hollybush played, so again, please contact myself or a churchwarden if you might be interested in making use of these superb instruments.

September is traditionally a time of new beginnings. We think of our church schools at Castlemorton, Eldersfield and Pendock, gearing up for a new school year and keep teachers, pupils and parents very much in our prayers. And we give thanks for our wonderful Open the Book team, with their regular dramatic presentations of bible stories to our schools. We also pray for those taking on new roles, our newly appointed Bishop of Worcester, Bishop Hugh for example – more about him later in the magazine! And those, like Bob and Julie, adapting to a very different style and pace of life in retirement. But we also keep in our hearts and prayers those starting out on a new life not of their choosing – those grieving the loss of a loved one, those coping with illness and a very much curtailed way of living, frustrated by their loss of independence.

Wherever you are in your life at the moment, whatever this September time of new beginnings is bringing you, be assured that God's love goes with you, his Holy Spirit is there to comfort and support, and his Son Jesus is always there to hear your prayer and intercede for you in times of joy and times of sorrow.

Wishing you all every blessing Rev Anthea Elston

Farewell to Rev'd Canon Julie and Bob James

Extracts with a few amends from the tribute paid by Churchwarden Elisabeth Rambridge at St Faith's Church

There is a new notion – What3words which uses random words to denote places. I tried to think of 3 words which were not random but chosen to define Julie and her ministry – here they are: **Energetic, generous, pragmatic**.

Julie brought apposite experience – as a teacher, as a churchwarden and as a Non-Stipendiary Minister. The purchase of Thistledown as the new Rectory was a determined attempt to place the vicar at the heart of the community and I am certain the pupils and staff of Pendock School in particular will miss her tremendously. If Julie has a mantra, I think it would be - Fit for purpose – not just about all the practical things for our churches – sound systems, door openers, toys for children – but also she has kept our faces pointing resolutely outwards to the community. An excellent cook and homemaker, she believes passionately in a Mission of Hospitality and we have all much benefited for that.

I have tried very hard to analyse what Julie's particular strength and I feel it has been her ability to navigate so successfully her role as a loyal employee of the Church of England and the Diocese of Worcester with the reality of an organisation that relies on volunteers.

At Brexit, Julie has showed a really sound understanding of the range of opinion locally in the farming community that an urban-centric church did not necessarily reflect.

In a similar vein, when it came to Covid and the instruction to close our churches, she moved very quickly to do all she could to make them available for private prayers, she interpreted the regulations so we worshipped outside and we learnt to worship by Zoom. People would say – yes, we watch our vicar taking a service, but we had really interactive worship, with Julie making her sermon available to us. If you wonder why we are so close, I think a lot of that dates back to Covid. As soon as she could, she was back in church taking services and weddings.

And then there is the third area which is harder to define. Julie has embraced fully what has been expected of her. She has attended conferences, training days and courses to familiarise herself fully with the methods of regeneration promoted by the national church. She has introduced messy church, café church, walking church; and she has also acknowledged when they are not appropriate to the rural environment.

Because Julie is an expert in Rural Ministry. It was very good to see her taking the Rogation Service at Mike Gilding's farm where you heard her speaking with such understanding, authority and passion about farming and rural matters.

It was a matter of much pride that we heard **Julie**, **that you were to be installed as an Honorary Canon of Worcester Cathedral**. When Bishop Martin Gorick came to Julie's job title which was 2 lines long, he made a little joke. We all know where the responsibility for a 2-line job title lies.

When Julie was appointed, it was to the 3 parishes of Berrow with its 5 churches as half the charge, the other half of the appointment was to the wedding ministry.

The wedding ministry was established, once Birtsmorton Court became a wedding venue, by Rev'd Mike Rogers. Julie has consolidated all his work and built on it, in particular as the couples started to 'move around' our churches and the team of vergers stepped up. The wedding ministry is not a photo opportunity. Our young couples are prepared thoroughly with the marriage preparation days, and Julie welcomes them warmly through the 6 months they have to attend church to complete their residency. Julie has a tremendous presence, navigating the solemnity of commitment with the gaiety of the occasion. And at the end of the service as the guests go out over and over again do you hear – thank you vicar it was lovely service; and the strong and lasting allegiance means they return to us for the precious baptism of their own children.

After Rev'd Chris Moss from the neighbouring Longdon Benefice retired, Julie became the Curate-in-Charge. With typical energy, generosity and pragmatism, and very quickly, she got to know your

congregations, your communities, your churches and the challenges which we all face in rural ministry. And I know how much members of the Longdon Benefice have appreciated your ministry.

Julie has told us a great deal in her sermons and she has explained that her father's experience in the last War with Bomber Command turned his face against religion and faith. We know it was Julie's love of music that turned her in that direction and it was Bob who brought her safely to faith and to us.

Bob's has been a life of equal service to community and he's also an excellent cook and a full supporter of the Mission of Hospitality. How often have we heard? '**Bob'll help with the barbecue**.' Bob is a committed Mason and a stalwart of the Masonic Museum in Worcester. A teacher himself, he and Julie share a passion for the outdoors, and Bob is a lifelong member of the Scouts movement.

The founding date for St Faith's Berrow is 1050, which there is almost a millennium of witness in this place. For only the last 30 years has Women's Ministry been properly acknowledged. Julie was very much in the van of the movement for the ordination of women and a shining example of the courage, resilience and faithfulness they had to show.

Time and time again, Julie will have put the needs of the benefice family before the needs of her own family. And so my sincere thanks go also to Esther and Jimmy, Gordon and James here today and Edwin and Sarah and Jake and Olivia.

It is a mark of the robustness of our relationships, that this is not Goodbye, and in an unusual development with which we are delighted, **Julie will continue to play a full part in the wedding ministry.**

However still Julie has reached her official retirement. And as you come to leave, I wonder what will be your abiding memories. Bishop John used to write about 'thin spaces' and sometimes I wonder if there is one here at St Faith's. **Julie walks the lanes – in prayer –** and maybe sometimes she sees the hare that lives along Church Lane, there is certainly a lanky leveret about; let us never forget it was an itinerant preacher who brought us here. **Godspeed to you and Bob**.

Farewell and Thank-you

Bob and I would like to extend our heartfelt and grateful thanks for the generous parting cheque and gifts we were presented with on my final church service with the Benefices on June 29th. We have been both truly blessed with the support, practical help and fellowship offered since we arrived in 2014 with the Berrow Benefice of churches and then the extended church community when the Longdon Benefice joined us upon the retirement of the Rev'd Chris Moss. There are too many names to mention, and we would hate to miss someone out, But a BIG THANK YOU to one and all!

I have very much enjoyed the challenges of being Governor at both Pendock CE Primary School and Eldersfield Corse Lawn CE Primary schools. Castlemorton, Pendock and Eldersfield schools all have high aspirations for their pupils to all fully flourish within a safe and nurturing environment. The range and variety of activities offered during each academic year in addition to the evolving curriculum is amazing. It has been an honour to visit the schools and take part in their assemblies. And the children are all a credit to both parents and their schools. It was very touching and moving to have the children perform an assembly for myself upon my retirement. It meant a lot and their messages, cards and gifts were truly humbling.

We have shared in these communities many different events both sad and joyful, spiritual and entertaining. Our house in Pershore is now ready to move in after a year's renovation work on it. I will continue to officiate at the Occasional Offices(weddings, funerals, baptisms) until such times that I can step away when a more clear picture of how the future of these two Benefices emerges.

Thank you again, Rev'd Canon Julie and Bob James.

A New Bishop of Worcester appointed!

Downing Street has announced that His Majesty the King has approved the appointment of Hugh Nelson as the 114th Bishop of Worcester.

Bishop Hugh is currently the Bishop of St Germans in the Diocese of Truro, a position he has held since 2020, serving as the Acting Bishop of Truro from Sept 2023 until May this year. He is also Bishop to the Armed Forces, providing spiritual and pastoral leadership to Anglican Chaplains serving in the Royal Navy, British Army and Royal Air Force, a role which he will continue to hold as Bishop of Worcester.

Ordained in 2008, Hugh served his curacy in six rural parishes in East Kent before serving for eight years as the parish priest of Goudhurst with Kilndown, two village churches in the Diocese of Canterbury. Before ordination, Hugh spent 13 years living and leading the community of L'Arche London, part of an international network of ecumenical Christian communities where people with and without learning disabilities share life together.

Bishop Hugh said:

"It is an enormous privilege to be appointed as the next Bishop of Worcester. I am so looking forward to joining you in Worcestershire and Dudley on your journey as Kingdom People; getting to know the different communities across the Diocese and finding out what God is up to in its villages, towns and cities. "The Diocese of Worcester is full of so much that is good and holy, with plans to double the number of young disciples, to create 100 new worshipping communities, to renew churches right across the area and to underpin all this by resourcing clergy and lay leaders. And all of that building on the faithful, generous service of people in churches of every size, tradition and place from Dudley to Bredon, and from Malvern to Redditch."

Bishop Hugh continued:

"In a changing world, our first call is to be faithful; to be confident that God has given us everything we need to be the Church that he is calling us to be. From that foundation we're invited to be constantly curious about what is God doing, and to respond boldly, in both traditional and new ways. And it will be a key part of my role to lead us in doing all of that together here in Worcester, with the unity that Jesus prayed for."

Bishop Hugh is married to Lizzie, who is UK Director of Search for Common Ground, an international NGO which works to transform conflicts and build peace. Hugh and Lizzie have four children in their teens and 20s. Hugh loves hanging out with his family, gardening and playing and watching football, rugby and cricket. He is delighted that he will be living opposite New Road Cricket Ground!

Please pray for Bishop Hugh

Gracious and loving God, through your Son Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd, you have called us into the fellowship of your universal Church: we thank you for calling your servant Hugh to be Bishop of Worcester; sustain him by your love, strengthen him in faith encourage him in hope and grant him the needful gifts of grace; that through his ministry among us we may live and grow as Kingdom People sharing faith, hope and love in Jesus' name. Amen

Giles Turner - a Tribute

Many of you will be aware of the death of our organist, Giles Turner at the end of May, and will have attended his funeral service at Eldersfield Church at the beginning of July. For those unable to attend, I have reproduced – in a slightly edited down version – the tribute written by his daughter, Katharine, which I had the privilege to read at his service.

Giles contributed so much to the life of our benefice, playing for all our services — Sundays, weddings, funerals — he was always there, giving so generously of his time and talent. He was always so humble and self-effacing about his musical abilities but they made such a difference to our worship, and provided a joyful lift to weddings, and a comfort to funerals. His skill at being able to lead a congregation and to give them the confidence to sing was second to none. And he would always go that extra mile, putting his musicality to good use with extra touches, finding out about the interests of the person who had died so that he could play suitable music whilst people entered the Church. And he was always such a generous donor to good causes, Church based and beyond.

We miss him dearly – not just for the music but for that calm, reassuring presence at the organ, always with a twinkle in the eye and a ready smile. We, like his family, take comfort from our knowledge of his strong Christian faith, and our belief that he is now re-united with Jackie, who he loved and missed so much. I hope you enjoy the insight which Katharine's words give into the life of this remarkable man.

Rev Anthea Elston

Please note that this is a shortened version of the tribute written by Katharine about her father, and read out at his funeral.

Giles was born in Norwich to musical parents who met playing in an orchestra, and moved at a young age to St Albans in Hertfordshire where he enjoyed a happy family upbringing with his brothers Stephen and Roger and beloved pet cat Tommy. He started learning to play the piano at the age of 7 and by the age of 9, much to his own surprise, he won his first music competition playing Mendelssohn's Christmas piece. By 10 he could play most of the hymns in the hymn book and was recruited to play for the school morning assembly which he found great fun. His abilities developed rapidly and by 14 he was tackling Chopin, Rachmaninov and Beethoven.

During his school years, he had a go at the violin and then viola, gaining valuable orchestral experience, helpful for when he was conducting orchestras in the future and at 16 he began to learn the organ, a skill that later proved invaluable for all the countless church services, weddings and funerals he would play over the years. Giles was a boarder at Aldenham school where he became School captain and maintained strong connections with the school through his life, and was proud to have a music room named after him. Tragically, his mother died when he was only 17, and his father's sister, known as Aunt Fish, moved in to provide support during this difficult time. Giles went to Durham University to study Music and always said that Durham was one of his favourite places in the country. Whilst there, he played viola in the university orchestra, sang tenor in the choir, gave concerts in the beautiful Durham cathedral and took up conducting for the first time, a skill that would bring him immense joy throughout his life.

Giles met his future wife Jackie in St Albans where they lived on the same road. They married in St Albans Abbey in 1967 beginning a wonderful marriage that would span over fifty years. Their first home was in Radlett and many happy days were spent with family, friends, cats, kittens and tortoises, as Katharine and John grew up. Family holidays involved exploring different parts of the UK, with North Wales being a favourite. Giles loved walking challenges, walking the length of Hadrians' wall and Offa's dyke with John in the 1980s. Giles' career was spent in publishing, working at Harpers, Hutchinsons and later Neals where he worked alongside firm friend Mary Steele. However, while his working life was in publishing, music was his true passion.

In 1972, Giles became a founding member and the first Musical Director of Radlett Light Opera Society. Between the 1970s-90s he conducted almost all the company productions with a number in St Albans too: that's 50 productions and about 300 individual performances. Most years he was involved in 2 different productions ranging from Gilbert and Sullivan to light operatta and American musicals. His preparation was meticulous. Performances were always enthusiastically received and provided Giles with many happy memories.

Giles always appreciated the constant support of Jackie to allow him to undertake his musical activities and his family are pleased that he had already established an annual Giles Turner award which is presented to someone who contributes something special to a show whether on stage or off. This award will continue in memory of Giles.

For retirement Giles and Jackie moved to Stable Cottage in Corse Lawn where they spent 25 happy years enjoying beautiful views towards the Malvern hills. The location held special meaning: Giles had spent childhood holidays in Malvern with his grandparents. He converted the stable into a music room where he could play his organ and listen to classical music. Giles was always practical; he'd made intricate models of cathedrals as a youth and recently created a miniature replica of his family Austin 10. His interests were wide ranging. He read his newspaper cover to cover, pursued photography, followed test cricket, collected coins, studied astronomy through his telescope, spotting constellations and nearby planets and enjoyed travels in the UK and abroad. But music remained central to his life.

Giles possessed an extraordinary talent to just sit down and play any hymn and indeed many pieces of classical music from memory. He could do arrangements and transpose music and had condensed whole orchestral arrangements down to his own organ versions. He accompanied Newent Choral Society and sang Tenor for Gloucester Choral society, where his highlight was performing as part of a 120 strong choir in London's Festival Hall with the Philharmonia orchestra. For over 10 years, he wrote "Musical notes" for this parish magazine – educational pieces designed to interest both musical and non-musical readers, many of which were published in book form in 2008.

Family was central to Giles and Jackie. Giles kept in close contact with his brothers Roger, Stephen and niece Caroline. As a really proud grandfather to Emma, James, Sebi and Lula, he took immense pride in their accomplishments. At the age of 72 he walked the full length of the Malvern Hills with Emma and James, though his legs were sore the next day! He enjoyed seeing his musical gifts passing to the next generation. Sebi and Lula have both demonstrated great musical ability and he frequently played duets with Sebi to entertain the family, sometimes with John on the saxophone and Lula on the clarinet. Recent months brought special pride as he watched both Sebi and Lula perform at Tewkesbury Abbey and attended Sebi's performance of Rachmaninoff's piano concerto number 2 accompanied by full orchestra at Pate's Grammar school. Sebi's first place in The Royal Academy of Music singing competition this year was very special to him.

Jackie's death last autumn ended their 57 year union. Supporting Jackie through her illness over an 18 month period and then adapting to her loss over the last 7 months were tough. But the friendship and support of friends and neighbours, especially John and Helen were a great help, as was the presence of Millie the cat, a constant and much loved companion.

Katharine and John reflect that their father absolutely lived life to the full leaving their families blessed with so many wonderful memories of him. They take real consolation from his profound Christian faith and that he is now reunited with Jackie. His legacy lives on not only in the musical memories of those he played for and conducted, but in the example of generosity, community service, and devotion to family that were such an important part of his incredible eighty five years.

Our Wonderful Diocese By Nikke Groarke, Archdeacon of Dudley

Back in June I had the immense privilege of being part of the Crown Nominations Commission (CNC) responsible for discerning who our next Bishop of Worcester should be. I am delighted by the outcome and am looking forward immensely to serving alongside Bishop Hugh when he comes to join us in the new year.

A question posed during that process caused me to reflect on what I have learned about the Diocese of Worcester during the episcopal vacancy. Let me share a few of my observations. In the Statement of Needs, describing the diocese for potential future bishops, we named our key characteristic as being relational. Relating well to one another across different traditions and contexts is part of Bishop John's legacy. What has really encouraged me, is that a year on, it is still a core part of who we are. Even during this season of change, with the natural uncertainty that comes during a vacancy, we have continued to relate well, bound together by our common commitment to be kingdom people.

Our transformation journey is exciting and is bearing fruit as churches become healthier and more sustainable, we see more children and young people being reached, and new disciples formed and nurtured. Each of the candidates we interviewed was inspired by our vision and impressed by progress so far, and I don't think that's just because they were hoping to make a good impression! The clarity of our long-term plan, our clear priorities and the way we were able to engage people across the diocese in conversation have been praised by the national Vision and Strategy Team who often point others to us for advice on how to do it well. It was clearly a key factor in drawing potential candidates to explore whether they might be called to serve here.

We navigate difference well. The CNC process has been complex and divisive in some dioceses, and in a couple of cases members were unable to coalesce around a nomination. We worked really hard with the wider Vacancy in See Committee, and then as a group of six reps together with the national CNC members, to build consensus by committing to open and transparent dialogue, careful listening to build shared understanding, and prayerful discernment. We related carefully across our differences because we each trusted in a shared goal of finding the absolute best person under God to be our next bishop. I felt proud of how we had conducted ourselves and came away with renewed hope for the future and an even stronger conviction that Worcester is the best diocese in the world to be part of!

I hope you will join me in your parish in praying for Bishop Hugh over the coming months as he prepares to come and join us on our transformation journey and begins to build relationship with the varied and wonderful people across this fabulous diocese.

A new bell at St Faith's Berrow

There was a welcoming party on the morning of Monday 23 June 2025 when a new bell was safely delivered to St Faith's, just in time for Rev'd Canon Julie James' final service. Our gracious donor was there, along with the fantastic team of volunteers, led by Malcolm Taylor, who helped with the installation; and thus a project for 6 bells, that started at the end of the nineteenth century to commemorate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee, came to fruition.

Whenever I ask about the 'olden days' a golden time for bell-ringing described was when John Clements taught a band of ringers, and it was splendid that his son Richard was amongst the group who tried out the bells for the first time as a 6 on Wednesday 25 June.

Already there has been a quarter-peal rung on the bells, and the plan is for a 'full' peal on 1 October, a date as close as possible to 6 October, which is St Faith's Day. I asked Richard if he would tell you more about the history of the bells, so here he is to take up the story

Elisabeth Rambridge

Berrow bells

In 1554 there were 4 bells hung in the tower of St Faith's, Berrow. In 1825 a new frame was installed and the three heaviest bells were scrapped and a new two-bell frame was built by **John Rudhall** of Gloucester. He also cast and installed an 11 cwt bell in the note of F-sharp. The other bell weighed 5½ cwt cast by John I Pennington of Monmouth.

The Rudhall foundry was in Gloucester and cast bells from 1679 to about 1835. In later years the business was sold to Thomas II Mears who owned the Whitechapel Foundry in London. Thomas continued to cast bells in Gloucester for a time and the ring of 6 at Longdon cast in 1835 (the last ring cast in Gloucester) were his work. There are more surviving bells cast by the Rudhalls than by any of their contemporaries or predecessors; 2,736 in total. John cast bells from 1773 to about 1835 and 385 of his bells survive including 11 complete rings.

John Pennington was one of numerous founders with the same surname who cast bells mostly in Devon and Cornwall. John was an active bellfounder from 1623-65. 41 of his bells survive including the two heaviest bells in the ring at Hartpury.

The new ring of 5 bells at Berrow was cast by Gillett & Johnston in 1914 at Croydon. The firm was set up in 1887 and ceased bellfounding in 1955. 2,634 of their bells survive. By the early twentieth century, G &J were producing very fine, harmonically tuned bells – including the 5 heaviest bells at Berrow.

Whilst harmonic tuning had been employed on the Continent (particularly in Holland) for at least 200 years, in England it was introduced following the publication of two papers in 1895 and 1896. The author was the Rev'd Canon Arthur Barwick Simpson and the one paper was entitled "Why Bells Sound Out of Tune and How to Cure them". Cyril Johnston, who had taken over the running of the firm from his father, quickly adopted Simpson's ideas and started producing bells that were a huge improvement on the firm's earlier work. Simpson lived in Sussex throughout his life becoming Rector of Fittleworth in 1876.

The new ring of five bells was:

Bell	Diameter	Nominal	Cwt	Qrs	Lbs
	(ins)	(Hz)			
1	25½	1296	3	1	11
2	27½	1152	3	3	9
3	29	1080	4	2	6
4	32	972	6	0	6
5	36	864	8	2	10

in a key very slightly flat of A natural (864Hz or A minus 31.77 cents)

The new bell (a treble to augment the bells to a ring of 6) was cast in 2025 by John Taylor & Co of Loughborough where there has been a foundry run by the family since 1844. Over 14,500 of their bells exist. The new bell has been tuned to match the existing ring and is an excellent bell.

Back in 1976 there were in England 826 rings of 5 bells and 2,551 rings of 6 bells; the current figures are 571 and 2,819 respectively. The almost 31% reduction in the rings of 5 has been almost entirely due to them being augmented to 6, 8 or, in some cases, such as Pebworth in Worcestershire, 10 bells by the addition of lighter, higher pitched bells. Worcestershire has always had relatively few rings of 5 compared with rings of 6. In 1976 and 2025 the total rings of 5 in the county were 8 and 4 respectively whereas there were 60 and 57 (including Berrow) rings of 6. The other "missing" rings of 5 in the county are Bredon and Birlingham (both augmented to 6). The augmentation of rings of 5 is a fashion that has existed for at least the last 300 years. Many rings of 5 are hung in old (pre-1800) wooden frames and the frame and fittings are worn out. Hence 21% (122) of the existing rings of 5 are unringable. Only two of the rings of 5 in Worcestershire are still ringable.

Why has there been this long-term trend to augment rings of 5? On 5 bells there are just 120 different orders (called "changes") the bells can be rung in whereas on 6 bells there are 720 different changes. These changes are produced by ringing "methods" (with prosaic names such as Grandsire, Stedman and Plain Bob). The number of available methods is hugely greater too on 6 rather than 5 bells. Additionally ringing changes on 6 bells involves less physical effort generally than ringing changes on a ring of 5 with the same weight of tenor bell. Finally changes rung well on 6 bells sounds more interesting to the listener outside than changes on 5 bells.

Ringers generally find 6s more rewarding than 5s too. Keen ringers like to ring peals (a peal takes between $2\frac{1}{2}$ and $3\frac{1}{2}$ hours, depending on the weight of the bells) and this is reflected in the comparison of the number of peals rung on 5s and 6s in England in 2024 when only 39 peals were rung on a ring of 5 contrasting with 676 rung on rings of 6.

To date 13 peals have been rung on the bells at Berrow, the first being on 11 December 1932. I have rung in 5 of those peals and have rung one peal on each of the 5 Gillett bells. The bells are now an excellent, tuneful and easy going ring and I hope they will continue to ring out across the parish for many years to come.

Richard J Clements

Berrow-with-Pendock PCC

GIFT DAY

Sunday, September 14th from 2 – 4pm

St Faith's Church, Berrow &

The Church of the Redeemer,
Pendock Cross

Please support the lovely churches in your midst

Thank you

Berrow & Pendock Village Hall WR13 6JN

Christmas Quiz

Thursday 11th December 2025, 6.45 p.m. for a 7.00 p.m. start Finish 9.30 p.m.

£12.00 per person to include a welcome drink & a cheese platter



Teams of up to 6.
Christmas hamper for the winning team.
Raffle.
Bring your own drinks.

Pre purchase of tickets is essential – please email BerrowVillageHallMalvern@gmail.com

Raising money for our Heat our Hall project



Step up in September! and support what is going on in your Community

Please come along to the following events, and it you could offer help, in any sort of way, with the organisation beforehand, it would be fantastic to hear from you. It's great that we manage to do so much in our parishes and also get involved in county and nationwide events.

Hollybush Church community will host a pop-up event at All Saints on Saturday 6 September from 11 am to 1pm.

Ride and Stride on Saturday 13 September https://ridestrideworcs.org/churches-routes/

Our churches – Bushley and Castlemorton, Berrow, Hollybush and Pendock Cross will welcome riders on this event run by the Worcester & Dudley Churches Trust, and nationwide.

Heritage Open Days

https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/
This year the theme is
Architecture so come along to meet the group of volunteers at the
Old Pendock Church on Saturday 13 September from 2 to 5pm who
have transformed this lovely Grade I church in our midst.

Gift Day at St Faith's and the Church of the Redeemer on Sunday 14 September from 2 to 4pm.

A Macmillan Coffee Morning is planned for Friday 26 September from 10.30am to 12noon, at Berrow and Pendock Village Hall.

Looking forward to October

And are you pampering your pumpkin?!

There's a peal to look forward to!

Please get involved!

Elisabeth Rambridge, Churchwarden andrewrambridge215@btinternet.



2ND Berrow and Pendock Pumpkin Festival

Saturday 11th October 2025 12 p.m. ~ 4 p.m. Berrow and Pendock Village Hall, WR13 6JN

Stalls, teas, coffees, cakes and homemade soup in the village hall.

Grow your own pumpkins and squash and enter our competitions

Growing Competitions- Must be grown by entrant.

All Ages

Heaviest Pumpkin or Squash Smallest Pumpkin or Squash 'My Best' Pumpkin or Squash Unique/Strange Shaped Pumpkin or Squash Best in Show – Judges Favourite from all winners

<u>Craft Competitions</u> – *Pumpkins may be home grown or bought.*Judged in three categories - Ages 0-10; Ages 11-16; Ages Over 16

Carved Pumpkin Fairy/Goblin House
(Please ensure carving is done with adult supervision)

Drawing or Painting of a Pumpkin or Squash
A Photograph of an Animal with a Pumpkin or Squash
Six Autumn Themed Decorated Cupcakes – judged on appearance not taste
Miniature garden, maximum size of a dinner plate

All Ages

Squash Vehicle – Turn your Pumpkin into a mode of transport – think wheels, sails and wings.

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

BerrowVillageHallMalvern@gmail.com
Or message us on our Facebook page

www. facebook. com/Berrow And Pendock Village Hall

Did your mother teach you as a child to always tell the truth?

Of course she did. We must always tell the truth. If you lie once, what trust can anyone place in anything you ever say?

But perhaps that's not quite right. Politeness has a value. 'Your call is important to us' is an invitation to wait. Diplomats develop colds when they do not wish to attend a reception. And what answer do you give to the question 'Do I look fat in this?'

In Parliament this duty to tell the truth used to be taken seriously, in particular from the time of the reforms of the luminaries of the 19th century such as Gladstone, Northcote and C E Trevelyan. It was as a result of the adoption of those standards by MPs that what we would call a sense of honour came to be expected and this was evident when on 1967, James Callaghan, then Chancellor of the Exchequer, was asked if he had any intention of devaluing the pound from its fixed exchange rate. Having spent the entire day planning just such a devaluation for the following morning but also aware of the chaos it would create if an early announcement were made he replied 'no' and he resigned promptly. Lord Carrington resigned as Foreign Secretary because his department had not foreseen the invasion of the Falklands. No one suggested that any blame lay with him personally. Estelle Morris, the Education Secretary, was probably the last of this breed when she resigned in 2002.

From that position we have moved to one which Willi Münzenberg, an agent of the Comintern, described as 'lying for the truth'. Tony Blair, and indeed the whole machinery of government, informed us that the Iraqis had or were developing weapons of mass destruction and were threatening us with them. No such weapons existed and therefore there could have been no evidence of them. More recently Boris Johnson told us that forty new hospitals were to be built but again no such plans existed or were contemplated. Lying was taken to a new level, by both sides, during the Brexit debate. It is simply no longer thought important or relevant to speak the truth when matters of national significance are being considered. This development is not unique to the UK. Trump tells Americans, with a straight face, that the tariffs he is imposing will be paid by the foreign exporters, not by the American public who will buy those imports.

The police lie to us by silence. Grooming gangs have existed for decades in Rotherham and elsewhere and among them a common denominator was

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

(and indeed perhaps *is:* how do we know?) that they were Muslim and of Pakistani origin. For fear of stoking racial tensions, the police decided that this was a fact which should not see the light of day and remained stumm. More recently, Warwickshire Police have asked a council and local officials not to mention the immigration status of two men – in fact Afghan asylum seekers – now charged with a foul crimeⁱ. The recent Online Safety Act has made it impossible for some voters – those aged 16 and 17 – to watch or read online debates in Parliament about certain matters, such as those connected with Rotherhamⁱⁱ, which may be highly relevant to their decision on how to cast their vote.

The motives of the instigators of these measures were beyond reproach: they all want to do what they thought was right and for the best. Sadam Hussein was a vicious thug and Iraq would have been better off if it had had a more competent and enlightened president. No one wishes to see a Britain fragmented by racial divisions or children corrupted by pornography. Nevertheless where it all goes wrong is that the people in power believe that they – and only they, they who know the facts – are capable of deploying those facts in the service of the better world we all wish to bring about. The rest, the hoi polloi, you and me – would, in the view of these rulers, be likely to misunderstand the facts and become deluded. It is their duty, runs their thinking, that they should withhold from us facts we cannot understand or which we would use improperly. The technical name for this approach is hubris

Of course, sometimes they get caught out and then we realise that we cannot trust our government. When duplicity comes to be expected, people start to guess what the truth might be and alternative theories, some barely credible, flourish. That is dangerous. Your mother was right.

In the *Politics*, Aristotle said that the quality of a dinner is to be decided by the diner, not by the chef; he meant that the acceptability of a political system, that is whether people thought it was doing 'a good job', was for the people to decide, not the rulers. Transporting that metaphor to modern times it could be said that today we are close to, or perhaps even in, a position where the people have been shown the menu but are invited to form their opinions on their government without being allowed to taste the food.

Now I accept that Churchill said that the truth was so important that it had to be attended by a bodyguard of lies but he was, of course, speaking in wartime when deception of the enemy was vital if the state was to survive.

So next time what will you respond when you are asked 'Do I look fat in this?'

I hope you have the wisdom to choose the right answer.



Saturday 4th September at 7:30pm A Complete Unknown

(15-2024-140mins)

The director James Mangold's A
Complete Unknown is a stylish and
evocative portrait of Bob Dylan's years
in early 1960s New York. The film avoids
the typical cradle-to-grave biopic
formula and instead hones in on a
cultural moment in music and society and
has many resonances for today.
Timothée Chalamet in the lead role

Timothée Chalamet, in the lead role, gives a magnetic performance, with live musical performances being some of the many highlights. The film is ideal for fans of music history and 60s pop culture.

Tickets £5 on the door
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

Castlemorton Environmental Group

The Butterflies of the Malvern Hills & Bringing Back the Lost Fritillaries...



CEG invite you to a talk by Mel Mason Vice-chair of Butterfly Conservation West Midlands and Malvern Hills Butterfly Conservation Project Leader

Join us for a talk about the past and present butterflies of the Malvern Hills and on how species are being reintroduced.

Castlemorton Parish Hall Thursday 25th September at 7:30pm

Entry £2:50 cash, with tea or coffee and biscuits provided. This event is sponsored by Castlemorton Parish Council

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO STAUNTON CHURCH TRADITIONAL HARVEST SUPPER TO BE HELD AT

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ON

SATURDAY 13th September 2025
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Richard Lennox, International Pianist and Organist
Organist at King Charles Coronation
At Corse & Staunton Village Hall
Saturday 18th October 2025 at 7.30pm
Tickets @£12.00p from

Sue Bell 01452 840785, Malcolm Harley 01452 840391 Pauline Trigg 07756 074290, Jo Thurlow 07531 265915

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Proceeds for Staunton Church.

QUEENHILL WI REPORT JULY 2025

Was this the hottest day of the year so far? It certainly felt like it! It was, therefore, good that we had an interesting and engaging meeting that concentrated on other things.

After a productive business meeting where we discussed fundraising, branch activities and plans for next year's programming, we welcomed Mike Bottomley as our speaker.

His topic was Nurse Edith Cavell, whose name we knew well, though not many of the details of her life. Using a sequence of video clips and diary extracts, where an actor representing Edith talked of her experiences, Mike spoke very clearly and movingly of her life.

With a strong religious faith and a wish "to do something useful, something for people", Edith worked first as a governess and then as a nurse both in this country and in Belgium, setting up nurse training schemes. During World War 1, she also established safe houses and helped transport many to safety. She was arrested and died by firing squad in 1915.

Edith was an inspirational figure. And still is. "I realise that patriotism is not enough" she said, "I must have no hatred or bitterness towards anyone". What would she make of today's world I wonder?

Refreshments, conversation and raffle followed as usual before we all braved the temperature outside and went home.

QUEENHILL WI REPORT AUGUST 2025

It was pleasing to see so many members at the meeting, on another hot day. Many came carrying geranium plants in full bloom. Each of us had been given a plug plant earlier in the year and had been nurturing it since then. What a show!

After the business meeting we had pleasure welcoming Sandra Grayson who talked about "Fun Signs: the good, the bad, the downright stupid". In an interesting and amusing talk, she explained how she moved from being a legal secretary to graphologist and calligrapher; from a small advertisement for calligraphy services to tutoring on cruise ships and seeing the world. As she said "If you have a passion for something, share it!"

Using visual examples of signs and advertisements, we saw some of the marketing 'tricks', subliminal messages, logos, and clever design ideas that are intended to influence us. There were brand logos that we knew well but had never realised how they 'worked'. Many, also were very funny - unintended interpretations or language misunderstandings.

Refreshments, raffle and conversation followed as usual before we left bearing our geraniums and looking forward to our next meeting.

This will be on Thursday, September 11th at 2.30 at Queenhill WI Hall when Rosie Wynne will show us and talk about the WI Craft Collection. Is this something you might be interested in? We welcome new members!

The Berrow & Pendock Village Hall Committee are also looking for a new volunteer member to join the team.



As a committee member you will be helping us to ensure the future of the hall as a much-needed facility for the area.

You will be enthusiastic and hands on and keen to help us organise community events at the hall.

If you live in Berrow or Pendock and have a passion for helping your community and preserving a local historical building please get in touch.

Message Emily - 07899 984921

berrowvillagehallmalvern@gmail.com

The Berrow & Pendock Village Hall Committee are looking for a bright, friendly, organised person to fill the volunteer role of Secretary & Treasurer.



You will be helping the committee at its meetings (approx. 6-8 per year) and will be maintaining the bills, paperwork, correspondence and accounts.

If you would like to find out more information or are interested in joining us as we continue to make the village hall a hub for the community, please email us by the end of August

berrowvillagehallmalvern@gmail.com

Ledbury Food Bank

Ledbury Food Bank began its work in 2013. The food bank is a registered charity formed by the churches in Ledbury to provide food and other essentials to those residents of Ledbury and the surrounding area who were unable to support themselves.

In the early years the food bank supported about twenty or thirty households every month. This demand grew gradually over the years and in 2020 during the covid lockdown increased dramatically.

It was based in St Katherine's Hall in Ledbury Town Centre until 2021 when demand for its services had risen to such an extent that those premises were no longer capable of coping with the numbers of people seeking help each week.

New premises were found in an industrial unit on the trading estate next to Ledbury railway station. These premises are much more suitable, and the extra space has allowed us to provide breakfasts to visitors when they visit the food bank. A contract with Citizens Advice has enabled those who have benefit and debt problems to access good quality assistance at the food bank.

Demand for our services has continued to rise since we moved to the new premises and we now support approximately 150 different households every month. Although the majority of those we help come from Ledbury itself we also support people from the surrounding area in Herefordshire, Gloucestershire and Worcestershire. In 2024 we opened a satellite food bank in Colwall.

Those seeking our help can self-refer to us by simply turning up at one of our sessions. We carry out our own assessment of need and have a social care team headed by a retired social worker.

We open every Wednesday and Friday morning and Thursday evening in Ledbury and Tuesday afternoon in Colwall. The food bank is entirely dependent on donations and grants to carry out its work. We buy most of the food that we distribute although we welcome all gifts of food and other essentials. This is particularly true during Harvest Festival season when we receive significant donations from churches and schools throughout the area. In 2024 we spent over £94,000 on the food that we gave out to our users.

We are very proud of the fact that Ledbury Food Bank is run entirely by volunteers which enables us to keep our overheads low and can therefore spend most of the money that we receive on supporting those in need.

We have about 70 volunteers but are always on the lookout for new people to join the team.

Mark Lister, Churchwarden of St Gregory's, Castlemorton

Huge thanks to Mark for writing about all the excellent and important work carried out by Ledbury Foodbank. As you will have read, they rely on donations of food and/or money to carry out this work. During October, when we are having our Harvest services, it would be great if we could collect well in date tinned, bottled or dried goods for them, together with toiletries and other home essentials like washing up liquid and loo rolls.

Plastic boxes will be available at all 10.30am services for your donations, and I will aim to create a centralised drop off point in both benefices for those who can't make it to a service.

Please do give as generously as you can to this very good cause, which supports local people in need.

Rev Anthea Elston

Eldersfield Cricket Club

It's been a frustrating cricket season for Eldersfield losing a lot of close games and finding themselves dangerously close to the bottom of the Gloucestershire league 7A table. Since Eldersfield's thrashing by Arcadians Nine Elms 2nds, the team have competed well, losing narrowly to Ashton Ingham 2nds, Huntley, Highnam Court, Longborough and Sezincote (by 1 wicket) and Stanway also by 1 wicket in the last over. The good news is that they have beaten the two bottom sides, Bream by 31 runs thanks to a belligerent 137 from Charlie Icke and Bourton Vale 3rds who couldn't raise a team so had to concede the game (sadly a sign of the times in village cricket). So with just five games left, Eldersfield should avoid relegation and with so much talent in the team should be aiming to finish the season on a high.

Results

ECC 127 (George Bunn 39), Stanway 128 for 9 (Charlie Icke 3-11)

Stanway won by 1 wicket

Longborough and Sezincote 136 for 9 (Jack McCraken 3-11)

ECC 134 (Jack McCracken 46) Longborough and Sezincote won by 1 wicket

ECC 213 for 5 (Charlie Icke 137) Bream 182 (Tony Clements 3-31)

ECC won by 31 runs

Aston Ingham 2nds 223 for 4 (Tony Clements 2-21)

ECC 193-9 (Chric Fincher 85) Aston Ingham 2nds won by 30 runs

ECC vs Bourton Vale 3rds -

Bourton Vale 3rds conceded the game as unable to field a team

ECC 158-5 (Jack McCraken 36), Huntley 159-6 (Jack McCraken 3-16)

Huntley won by 4 wickets

ECC 172-7 (Jack McCraken 52) Highnam Court 176-7 (George Bunn 3-32)

Highnam Court won by 3 wickets

LATE NEWS

ELDERSFIELD RETAIN SPRAGG CUP

On a glorious mid-August Sunday afternoon, Corse Lawn scored 173 for 6 in their allotted 35 overs, S Kampath scoring 65. In reply Eldersfield notched up 176 for 1 in 23.1 overs thanks to a cracking 102 not out from "man-of-the match" George Bunn. Full report in the October magazine!

Weddings, Funerals and Baptisms

Although both benefices are in interregnum (ie without a full-time paid priest) at the moment, we are still able to be there for our communities to help with the milestone moments of life.

Our Churches are wonderful sacred spaces in which to celebrate a marriage or the birth and baptism of a child. We can provide all the help, guidance and expertise you need to plan out a service which works for you and your family. Our church buildings also provide the time and space to grieve – and to remember and give thanks for the life of a loved one who is no longer with us.

Your first point of contact to organize a wedding or baptism would be Rev Anthea Elston, contact details at the front of this magazine. For funerals, you will be working with your preferred funeral director who will get in touch with Rev Anthea to agree a suitable date and time.

Our medieval and more modern buildings are, first and foremost, places of worship, but they are also community spaces, where we would love to be able to help you to celebrate your times of joy and provide comfort and support in times of sadness. Please do be in touch with Rev Anthea or with your local church warden if we can help in any way.

Rev Anthea Elston



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Amie is our Operations Director and Malvern Funeral Director.

Rachele is our Colwall and Ledbury Funeral Director.









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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
5th October	Queenhill Church	10.45am	Holy Communion for Harvest	Joel 2. 21 – 27 2 Corinthians 9. 6 -15	ТВА	ТВА
16" Sunday after Trinity	Hollybush Church	5pm	Evensong	Nehemiah 5. 1 – 13 John 9	David Allen	Liz Lean
20to to 7	Bushley Church	8.30am	BCP Holy Communion	Joel 2, 21 – 27 2 Corinthians 9, 6 -15	TBA	
17 th Sunday	Birtsmorton Church	10.30am	Holy Communion for Harvest	Joel 2. 21 – 27 2 Corinthians 9. 6 -15	Ruth Coates	Doug Braund
anel IIIIIIy	Castlemorton Church	6.30pm	Kaleidoscope	TBA	ТВА	TBA
19th October	Pendock Cross Church	10.30am	All Age Worship	ТВА	TBA	ТВА
9" Sunday after Trinity	Castlemorton Church	11.15am	Harvest Service of Thanksgiving	Joel 2. 21 – 27 2 Corinthians 9. 6 -15	ТВА	TBA
26 th October	Eldersfield Church	8.30am	BCP Holy Communion	J'miah14.7-10,19—end 2 Timothy 4.6-8, 16-18	Fiona Collins	!
east Sunday after Trinity	Berrow Church	10.30am	Holy Communion	J'miah14. 7-10,19-end Timothy 4.6-8, 16-18	Elisabeth Rambridge	Cathy P-Chandler
	Longdon Church	10.30am	Holy Communion	J'miah14. 7-10,19-end 2 Timothy 4.6-8, 16-18	ТВА	ТВА

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.

7 th September 12 th Sunday	Queenhill Church	10.30am	Holy Communion	Deuter'y 30.15 — End Philemon 1. 1 – 21	TBA	ТВА
arter I rinity	Hollybush Church	5pm	Evensong	Isaiah 43.14 44. 5 John 5. 30 End	Liz Lean	Celia Greatwood
14 th September	Bushley Church	8.30am	BCP Communion	Numbers 21. 4 – 9 Philippians 2.6 – 11	TBA	TBA
13 th Sunday after Trinity	Birtsmorton Church	10.30am	Holy Communion	Numbers 21. 4 – 9 Philippians 2.6 11	Mel Roberts	Ann Ward
	Castlemorton Church	6.30pm	Kaleidoscope	TBA	ТВА	TBA
21st September	Eldersfield Church	10.30am	All Age Worship	ТВА	TBA	TBA
14 th Sunday after Trinity	Castlemorton Church	10.30am	Morning Prayer	Ezra 1. 1 – 11 John 7. 14 36	ТВА	ТВА
28 th September	Eldersfield Church	8.30am	BCP Communion	Amos 6. 1a, 47 1 Timothy 6. 619	Janet Peters	
15 th Sunday after Trinity	Berrow Church	10.30am	Holy Communion	Amos 6. 1a, 47 1 Timothy 6. 6-19	Elisabeth Rambridge	Doug Braund
	Longdon Church	10.30am	Holy Communion	Amos 6. 1a, 47 1 Timothy 6. 619	ТВА	ТВА
)		

Details of how to join Zoom services are published on the Berrow and Longdon Benefices website Please Note: Compline will be held on Zoom Every Friday at 7.00 pm https://berrowlongdon.org.uk/resources



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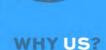


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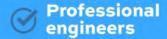


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To find out more or to arrange a visit, please contact The Events Office on 01684 833888 / events@birtsmortoncourt.com

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www.birtsmortoncourt.com



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